

Badran : architecture as a way of life

By a Star staff writer

INSPIRED BY Arab heritage and vernacular trends, which he was brought up and encouraged to appreciate, young Jordanian Architect Raseem Badran (born in Jerusalem 1945) made his first appearance in Amman in the early seventies.

His first works reflect sensitivity and a relationship with the environment. There is a sense of socio-behavioural identity in his works serving both culture and traditions. This can be seen in his first work, the Khoury residence, which some critics view as "a turning point in contemporary Jordanian architecture."

The son of the well-known artist, Jamal Badran, and Fatima Badran a sensitive and highly-educated lady with a strong sense of belonging, Raseem showed an artistic talent as early as the mid fifties, which he later steered to serving his search for an identity.

"Creating a responsible and mature environment for the new generations should be our responsibility," says Badran. "It should be enhanced by our rich and generous heritage, which entails spiritual and materialistic values."

Although the number of projects he has designed in Jordan are few, they successfully reflect an analytical approach to design problems taking into consideration environmental influences, social standards, primary materials and vernacular trends.

This analytical approach helped crystallise an obvious local identity in his later works especially in the late 70s.

This also helped Badran by paving the way for him to participate in international competitions and introduce his work to other Arab and foreign societies which granted him recognition abroad, at times when his hometown did not.

Raseem, along with his company (sba) won first prize in "The Baghdad State Mosque" international competition against some of the internationally known architects. Also he received first prize in the Ali Ben Abi-Taleb Mosque, Doha, Qatar, followed by another first prize in The Kaser Al-Hukom Mosque, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which led to his commission to design Kaser Al-Hukom Palace, now both under construction and to be officially opened in 1992.

Kaser Al-Hukom Palace and Mosque with their related commercial and cultural activities present a contemporary model of urban architectural planning. They revive cultural, political and religious events in a social core that used to be the essence in city planning in the past.

"The mosque plays an important role in our daily behaviour, and so it should not be an isolated mausoleum," says Badran. "The governor of the Islamic city serves the town and its inhabitants so there is close and

genuine interaction with God the sole legislator for the people, the reason for the government's existence. All these important elements were used in planning Kaser Al Hukom centre."

His involvement in architectural projects in different Arab countries along with a strong belief in the unique Islamic heritage and identity made it possible for Raseem to conduct a series of studies and researches on Arab cities like Kuwait, Samarra, Jeddah, Dammam and Tripoli in Libya. All these studies revolved around a common element: the mechanism of the analytical and deductive architectural thinking which is based on defining variables and stationeries for the human existence in its materialistic, spiritual and mental frames. For example, the nature of the mosque building cannot, in Raseem's view, be a repeated architectural model applicable to all cultures and environments in the Islamic region because of the different cultural, environmental, geographical and economical inputs.

"I perceive architecture as a dialectic process exemplifying the character and identity of Arab and Muslim environments despite their geographical proximity," says Badran. "This process deals with factors affecting social, behavioural and cultural levels which in turn defines our life style as it is connected to our Arab traditions through the respect of Islamic values."

He believes that the role of an architect is mainly to plan, analyse and criticise all the elements which play a major role in identifying the character of the society through the spontaneous reaction of its architectural personality. "I am ashamed of our cities whose planners and politicians have denied them a comprehensive and conscious perspective in order for them to reflect their civilised and unique face as our cities were during Islamic times," Badran says.

Recently the Arab Cities Organisation's General Conference, which is held in Morocco every four years, experienced a special event in its 9th session which was held on 29 January 1990. Architecture awards for accomplished projects and significant architectural works, awarded every two years, were a major event in this official opening. Jordan made a strong presence in this event through Raseem Badran who received a plaque and a certificate acknowledging his works, studies and research during the last 20 years in serving Islamic heritage.

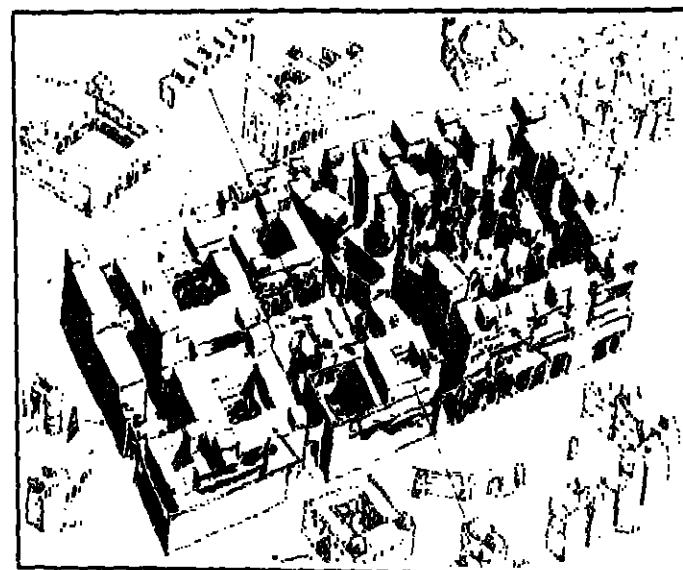
Badran is the third Arab architect to receive this award. Before him the award was given to Dr Mohammad Saleh Makkiyah (1986) followed by Dr Abd El-Baky Ibrahim in 1988.

Badran says that generally people view heritage and traditions as a barrier to modernisa-

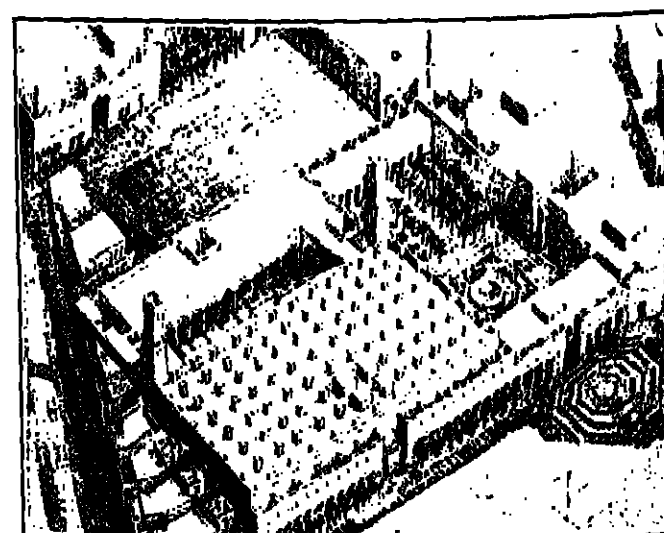
Right : Badran receiving the Arab Cities Organisation Architectural Award, 1990.



Below left : Analytical study sketch, Sanaa.



Ali Bin Abi Taleb Mosque, Doha, Qatar 1985.



Kaser Al-Hukom complex.



Kaser Al-Hukom Mosque, modern interpretation of the traditional.

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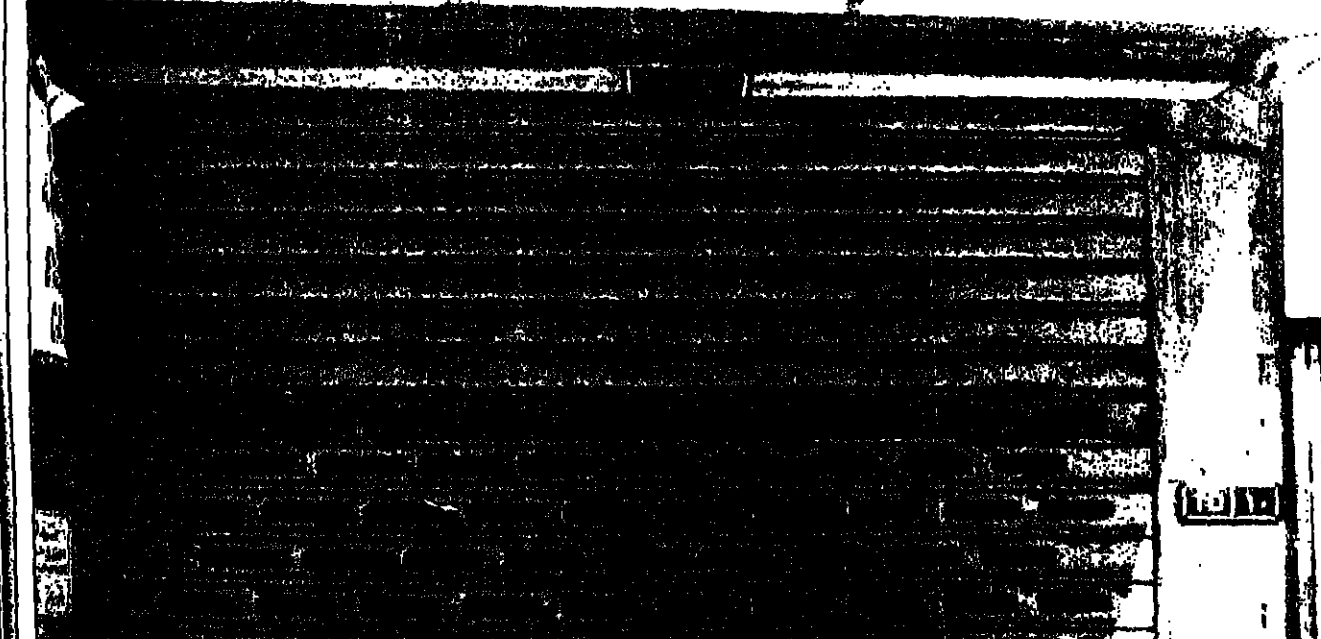
Amman, 1-7 March 1990

اسبوعية سياسية مستقلة

Vol: 1 No: 7



AMMAN EXCHANGE



Back in Business??

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see page 9



Politicising the profession, an interview with JEA new president, page 4



A bank with an eye on the world, interview with ABC (Jordan) General Manager Jawad Haddid, p9



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Working women, p.13

كلنا من المرحلين

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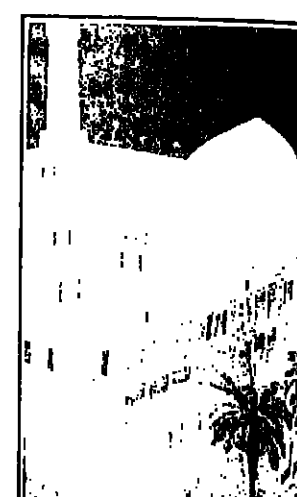
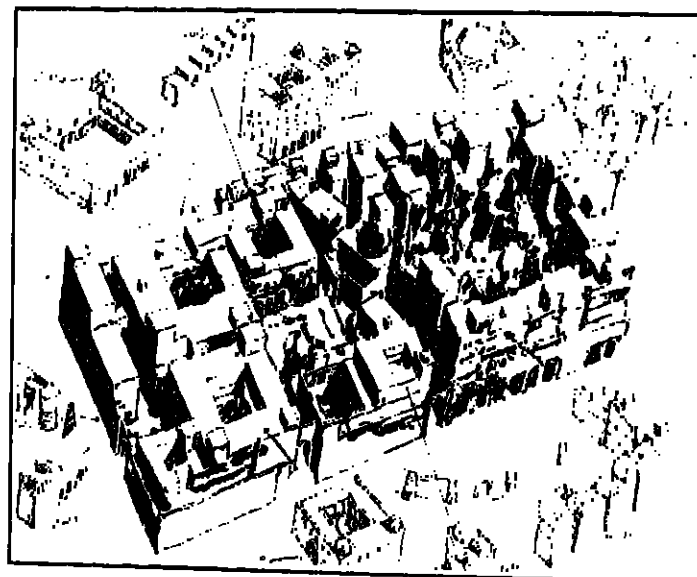
Badran is the third Arab architect to receive this award. Before him the award was given to Dr Mohammad Saleh Makkiyah (1986) followed by Dr Abd El-Baky Ibrahim in 1988.

Badran says that generally people view heritage and traditions as a barrier to modernisation and technology. But he sees it in another way. "Islamic culture and its accomplishments on one hand and technology on the other could complement each other if they are dealt with in the right way," he says. "The primitive man used to handle his shelter with extreme sensitivity... he excelled in this process to survive in his environment and he looked for ways to protect himself from the natural elements surrounding him." The methods he finally applied enriched his technological awareness and even added to his aesthetic feeling and sense of belonging.

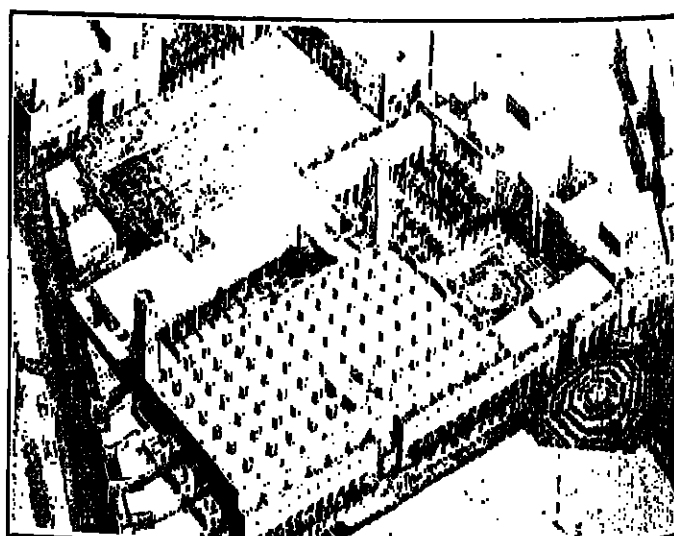
Right: Badran receiving the Arab Cities Organisation Architectural Award, 1990.



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كلنا من المرحلين

King arrives in UAE on fourth leg of Gulf tour

AMMAN (Petra) - His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Abu Dhabi Wednesday on a short working visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during which he will hold talks with the UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan on the latest developments in the regional and international arenas.

King Hussein was received at Abu Dhabi international airport by Sheikh Zayed, members of the UAE Executive Council, and senior civil and military officials.

Sheikh Zayed last evening gave an official banquet in honour of King Hussein. The banquet was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Chief of the Royal Court Sherif Zaid bin Shaker, Political Adviser Adnan Abu Audch, and Deputy Prime

Minister, Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasbi.

Official talks between the two leaders will start today, Thursday.

King Hussein arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha where he met with the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad al-Thani, and senior Qatari officials.

Talks between King Hussein and Sheikh Khalifa dealt with bilateral relations between the two countries and the recent developments on the Gulf and Arab scenes.

The two leaders also discussed the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Lebanese crisis, means of enhancing Arab solidarity, and the possibility of convening an Arab summit.

In a letter which he sent to Sheikh Khalifa upon leaving



King Hussein Wednesday starts an official visit to UAE

Doha, King Hussein thanked the Qatari leader, government and people for the hospitality accorded to him during his stay in Qa-

Gulf leaders on the outcome of the fourth Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) summit which ended in Amman on Saturday.

tar. King Hussein arrived in Abu Dhabi at the fourth leg of his Gulf tour which earlier took him to Kuwait and Bahrain.

His Majesty's talks with the Kuwaiti and Bahraini leaders also centered on world and regional developments and issues of concern to the Arab world.

King Hussein also briefed the

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On the road

Central Bank Governor, Dr. Mohammad Salim Al-Nabulsi will head Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development which will be held in the United Arab Emirates on 14 March.

Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will be headed by the Minister of Agriculture Dr. Sulaiman Arabiyyat. The meetings will be held in Tunis on 11 March.

A new committee will soon be set-up to prepare for the establishment of an Islamic sciences academy. The new academy, which was first suggested by His Majesty King Hussein, will be open to Jordanians as well as scholars from the Arab and Muslim worlds.

An Indian parliamentary delegation headed by Lower House Speaker Rabi Ray will arrive in Amman Saturday on a five-day visit to the Kingdom. The delegation will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on bilateral relations, and will visit a number of economic projects.

Focus on Parliament

By Ahmad Al Husban

The Public Liberties Committee is planning to organise a march to King Hussein Bridge on the River Jordan to protest the influx of Soviet Jews immigrants to the occupied territories.

The first closed session of the House was held on Tuesday, and was devoted to discussing the recent Israeli threats to Jordan.

News leaking from the House said heated debate took place during the session, and that some deputies demanded the revivification of the Eastern Front.

The next session of the House will be held on Saturday, when deputies will listen to the government replies to a number of their questions.

A member of the Finance Committee has confirmed that the committee will introduce major amendments to the Tax Law.

Some of the committees of the House will continue to meet after the Parliament's current ordinary session ends on 27 March.

Guidance Council re-activated

AMMAN (Petra) - Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Information Mr. Ibrahim Izz Id-dine, the National Guidance Council will hold its first meeting on Sunday.

The council, which was recently re-activated, will be entrusted with drawing the information policy of the Kingdom

within a comprehensive national framework.

It will also submit recommendations on means of implementing the information policy, and will decide on the general principles which define the responsibilities of the official and unofficial media institutions.

JBIEA ends its first-ever sit-in

AMMAN (Star) - Around 600 Petra Bank employees resumed their work Sunday thus ending a sit-in which they staged on Tuesday 18 February after the bank's management failed to respond to their demands for management reforms and improved working conditions.

According to the Secretary General of the Ministry of Labour Mr. Saleh Khasawneh, the government-appointed Management Committee of the Bank and Jordan's Banking and Insurance Employees Association (JBIEA), which represents the bank's staff, Saturday signed an

eight-point agreement which would go into effect as of 1 January 1990.

The agreement, which was mediated by the Ministry of Labour, provides for increasing the employees' salaries, creating a new salary scale that guarantees the staff their acquired rights... and reconsidering the management decision to raise the interest rate on employees' loans. It also stipulates that the bank will abide by the Labour Law with regard to overtime work, and will refrain from arbitrary dismissal of the employees.

'Nightline from South Africa' at the American Center

Amman (Star) - The American Cultural Center will broadcast the ABC news programme "Nightline from South Africa" everyday from Sunday, March 4 to March 7. Viewing begins at 4 pm at the auditorium of the center.

Ted Koppel interviewed South Africa's most prominent leaders during the days surrounding Nelson Mandela's release. The interviews cover issues like the media, the reforms of President F.W. De Klerk, and the future of the country after the release of Mandela.

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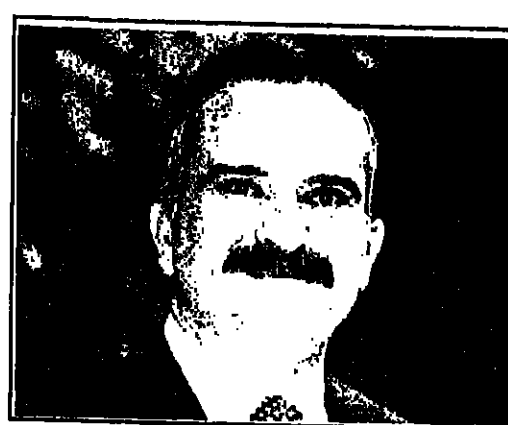
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MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

Regent opens conference on Greater Syria history

AMMAN (Star) - His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will Sunday open the Fifth International Conference on Greater Syria (Bilad Al-Sham), which aims at re-writing the history of the region.



Prince Hassan

According to Dr. Mohammad Adnan Al-Bakheit, rapporteur of the conference committee, the five-day meetings will address the history of Greater Syria in the period between 750-1059, when it was under the rule of the Abbasides.

Dr. Bakheit said that the conference, which will be organized by the universities of Jordan and Yarmouk, will discuss 11 aspects of this period including the tax system, administration, trade activities, coins, agriculture, irrigation and industry, as well as architecture and arts.

Dr. Bakheit said that the audience will be provided with summaries of the researches and papers discussed during the

conference. Some of these researches will later be published.

According to Dr. Bakheit, a comprehensive exhibition on the archaeological sites and coins of Greater Syria region will be organized at the University of Jordan alongside the conference.

The General Antiquities Department, the American Centre for Oriental Research, the French School for Oriental Research, and other centres will take part in the exhibition.

Social sciences inspectors at the Ministry of Education have been invited to attend the conference so that they can benefit from information and researches that will be discussed.

"Like its four predecessors, the conference represents an institutional activity and enjoys international credibility, and the respect of the Arab world," Dr. Bakheit said.

Dr. Bakheit expressed the hope that other Arab universities will undertake the task of re-writing the history of the Arab world in their regions.

Representatives from all the universities in Greater Syria, in addition to other universities in the world will participate in the conference, which was first convened in 1974.

Prince Hassan chairs the Organizational Committee of the conference which includes the presidents of Jordanian universities, and other Jordanian specialists.

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Leftist candidates sweep JEA's Executive Council New president sees political, professional works inseparable

AMMAN (Star) - Leftist candidates for Jordan's Engineers Association (JEA) Executive Council have made a landslide victory in the Association's elections which took place last Friday and Saturday.

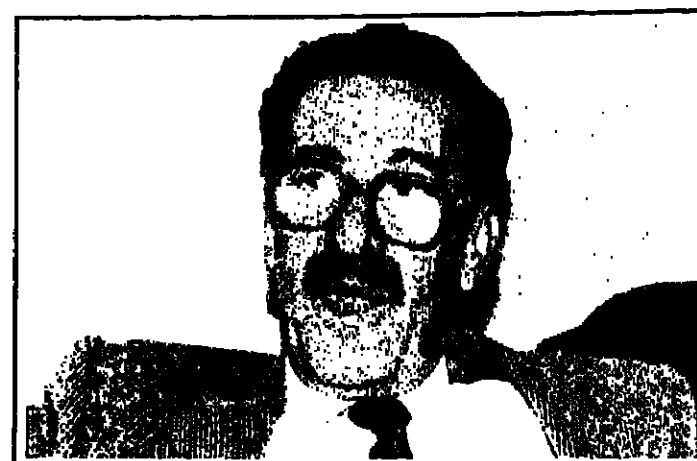
"The Green List," an alliance of Fateh, the Communist Party, the Popular Front and the Salah Jadid movement candidates, secured eight out of the nine contested seats, leaving the Islamist "White List" with one seat only.

But despite the clear-cut victory of the Green List, candidates ran neck to neck at the ballot box with no wide gap between them.

Engineer Ismael Baryoush was elected president of the Association after winning 2076 votes, only 12 votes more than his main rival engineer Ahmad Al-Kilani (Islamist), who secured 2064 votes. Only 4264 out of 9361 eligible voters participated in the elections which ran for 17 hours over two days.

In an interview with The Star, the new President of the JEA Mr Ismael Baryoush presents his views on the results of the elections, and talks about the plans of the new Council.

The Star: How would you evaluate the JEA latest elections?
Engineer Ismael Baryoush: They were honest competition between colleagues who volunteered to serve the interests of our Association, and those of the engineers. Our colleagues and we have different programmes for dealing with our professional



Mr Ismael Baryoush: "The present circumstances give additional significance to (our) victory."

Only 4264 out of 9361 eligible voters participate in the elections.

and national concerns which, we believe, are inseparable.
Q: It is the first time that leftist candidates achieve such a landslide victory in the JEA. What, in your view, are the factors that contributed to this success?
A: Many factors contributed to this success and rendered the elections so heated. They (the elections) came at a unique time in the history of our country - the democratic openness and what resulted from it - and the



fact that they also came after the parliamentary elections.
A: For the Professional Work Bloc (The Green List) this is not the first time that they achieve such a victory but the current circumstances mentioned above give an additional significance to this result.
Q: It is true that the margin of difference of votes won (by the Green List and the White List) was narrow, but they determined the popularity of certain ap-

proaches and work programmes among the voters.

Q: But how did these circumstances affect the result of the elections?
A: The effect is that many people affiliated to parties did not play a significant role in determining the results of the parliamentary elections.

A large number of the people were then feeling partly frustrated and did not participate in the elections. At the JEA elections, however, many of the electoral felt the need to actively get involved in the process, especially that it had to do with an educated sector of our society which played a vital role in protecting democracy before the beginning of the democratic experience.

Q: The "Green List" is an alliance of candidates from various parties - Fateh, the Popular Front, the Communist Party and Salah Jadid Movement. What are the common grounds among you?
A: These parties and political groups have the same national concerns. They are part of this country; they effect it and get affected by it. They are citizens before being professionals. This is enough for them to unite in one group which struggles for achieving our professional aspirations in a democratic manner. Besides, the engineers are facing the same problems and challenges which do not differentiate between Whites and Greens.

We are facing the problem of unemployment, deterioration in the standards of the profession, and a decrease in salaries. This makes all engineers agree on the need for solving these problems. If there are differences, then they are in programmes and mechanisms adopted by the various groups, as well as in their willingness to sacrifice, and abilities to produce. Our bloc had more of these characteristics.
Q: What are the priorities of the new Executive Council of the JEA?

A: Our professional work is an important, and difficult task, and the engineers are demanding us to concentrate on it because of the hard times they are going through. But we will not neglect one side of our work for the sake of the other. We will work in both directions (the political and professional ones).

Q: What are the main principles of your political programme?
A: We believe we can play an important role in protecting and maintaining the gains of the democratic process against internal and external forces. In addition to that, we will support the Intifadah of our people in occupied territories who are suffering under occupation. We are requested to stand by

them and support the Intifadah which is the first defense line for Jordan and the west of the Arab world.
We will provide the Intifadah with financial and moral support and will mobilise the people and the associations to realise this programme.

Q: Unemployment is among the major problems facing the engineers. Do you have any plans for solving this problem?
A: Unemployment is affecting all professional and professional sectors of our society. But it is more obvious among the engineers because of the increase in the number of graduates. We cannot say that we have a golden solution for this problem, but we do have a perception on how to deal with it in the long and short terms.

On the long run, we think that the problem can be dealt with through encouraging the agricultural sector and local production, which would provide more work opportunities. We believe that this should be done through the convening of a general conference to be attended by representatives from all the professional and non-professional unions and political groupings.

On the short run, more work opportunities could be created through supporting the local companies which would employ more engineers if they have more projects to work on.

Q: How would you respond to the people who say that you might politicise the professional work?
A: We don't aim to politicise the professional work. The two fields are connected and politics is in every part of our lives. We don't give priority to one aspect over the other, but we might use political ways to achieve our professional aspirations. Our goal is not to politicise the professional work.

Q: Only 4264 out of 9361 eligible voters and 23,000 engineers participated in the elections. This is a relatively small number?

A: It is not true to say that there are 23,000 engineers - there are 23,000 registered engineers, but 8,000 of them work outside the country, and another 13,000 live outside Amman. Many of these engineers have their special conditions which might prevent them from taking part in the elections. Another factor is that many of these engineers are fresh graduates, and cannot, because of unemployment, pay their membership fee which is a pre-condition for taking the right to vote.

Q: What about your relations with other professional and labour associations?
A: We co-operate with each other through the council of presidents of the associations dealing with national and professional matters of mutual concern.

Fourth ACC summit addresses major challenges

Leaders call for halting influx of soviet Jews to occupied lands

AMMAN (Star) - Leaders of the four-member Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) Saturday called for halting the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to the occupied Arab territories, warning that this process poses a threat to the whole Arab Order and its national security.

In a press statement issued at the conclusion of the fourth ACC summit in Amman Saturday, the four leaders said that the immigration of Soviet and Eastern European Jews to the occupied territories constitutes a violation of human rights and international laws, and thwarts efforts aimed at achieving a lasting and peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

His Majesty King Hussein, Iraqi President Saddam Hussain, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, and President of North Yemen Ali Abdullah Saleh, said that the Soviet Union and the United States bear a special responsibility towards this process and called on them to work towards putting an end to it.

The four leaders expressed their pride in the heroic struggle undertaken by the Palestinian



Heads of state of the ACC countries during their fourth summit in Amman.

people against the Israeli occupation forces. They said the three-year-old Palestinian Intifada reaffirms the determination of the Palestinian people to obtain their legal rights to self-determination and statehood.

The ACC leaders renewed their call for the convening of an international peace conference on the Middle East, under the auspices of the United Nations, in order to arrive at a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian problem.

They expressed total support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and praised the efforts it has exerted in pushing the peace process forward. On the situation in the Arab Gulf,

the four heads of state stressed the need for achieving permanent peace between Iraq and Iran, and called for the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 as well as an immediate resumption of peace negotiations between the two parties.

The four leaders emphasised the necessity of ending the suffering of prisoners of war, pointing out that international laws prevent using them as means for political pressures.

As for the Lebanese crisis, the ACC leaders called for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, and expressed appreciation for the Arab Tripartite Committee and its efforts to find

a solution to this crisis.

They demanded that the international community pressures Israel into implementing Security Council Resolution 425 which calls for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from South Lebanon.

The four leaders also discussed the issue of Arab waters and expressed their wish to deal with it in the seriousness it deserved, and in a way that would guarantee the acquired Arab rights.

The four Arab leaders also signed 11 co-operation agreements on the fields of science and technology, planning, industry, tourism, municipal affairs, health, meteorology, civil aviation, transport and religion.

The press statement was read by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al-Qasem who said that the reason why the summit ended one day ahead of schedule was that the agreements which were signed had earlier been thoroughly discussed and approved by the ACC Ministerial Committee.

In an answer to a question on whether the ACC have adopted

any plan to counter the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories, Al-Qasem said "there is a tendency among our leaders to deal with the situation in co-operation with our Arab brethren."

He said a joint Arab action on the issue will be launched after the meetings of the Arab league foreign ministers in Tunis next month.

Al-Qasem said there was an urgent need to come up with a new understanding for Arab solidarity because "there is no place in this world for individual countries no matter how big or wealthy these countries are."

He said that "today's world is a world of blocs and therefore the ACC considers Arab solidarity as a basic condition for the survival of the Arab Nation."

The Foreign Minister said that the leaders of Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen have reiterated their support of Jordan against any aggression because supporting Jordan means the protection of the whole Arab Order and the national security of the Arab World.

PLAZA



TIMES 90

AMMAN PLAZA, Shmeisani, Tel 674111

FRIDAY

FAMILY LUNCHEON BUFFET

AT THE COFFEE SHOP
FRIDAY & SUNDAY

J.D. 7.500 ADULTS

CHILDREN UNDER EIGHT FREE

SATURDAY

PRIME RIB OF BEEF NIGHT AT THE COFFEE SHOP

PRIME RIB OF BEEF
YORKSHIRE PUDDING
BAKED POTATO, VEGETABLES
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 7.500

TUESDAY

CONTINENTAL BUFFET

A SELECTION OF YOUR FAVOURITE HOT AND COLD CONTINENTAL DISHES.
J.D. 7.500

SUNDAY

JUMBO SHRIMP NIGHT AT THE ANDALUSIA

SEA FOOD COCKTAIL.
SHRIMPS GRILLED
DEEP FRIED, OR PROVENCAL
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 12.000

WEDNESDAY

INDIAN BUFFET NIGHT AT THE COFFEE SHOP

SELECTION OF CURRIES, BEEF, LAMB, CHICKEN, SHRIMPS AND VEGETABLES CURRY. NAAN BREAD
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 7.500

MONDAY

SPANISH PAELLA NIGHT AT THE COFFEE SHOP

SEA FOOD, SOUP
TRADITIONAL PAELLA
(RICE, SHRIMPS, HAMMOON, OLIVAS ETC.)
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 7.500

THURSDAY

SEA FOOD NIGHT AT THE ANDALUSIA

SET MENU OR A LA CARTE
SELECTION OF SWEETS
J.D. 12.000



YOUR KIDS GROW YOUNGER
WITH BUSTERBROWN.
1990 COLLECTION.

AT AL WAHA STORES & SAFEWAY INTERNATIONAL

Seeking diversions in a small world

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON - Purporting to be set in an unnamed Arab desert society, "Women of Sand & Myrrh," the latest novel by Hanan Al-Shaykh, published by Quartet Books, explores the lives of four women of different social and cultural backgrounds, who share in common an existence that is oppressive - and deal with it in different ways.

Born in Lebanon, Hanan Al-Shaykh became a successful journalist in Beirut and early in her career began writing short stories and novels. In 1986 her previous novel, "The Story of Zahra", was published in English and was well received. Before moving to London, she lived in the Gulf region.

Suha, a 25-year-old Lebanese, is the most prominent character in "Women of Sand & Myrrh" and her story threads through the narrative. Having fled from war-torn Lebanon with her husband and child, she soon reflects that the precarious life endured under the civil war conditions is preferential to her existence in her new surroundings in the host country, where she finds the restrictions unbearable.

"I knew that life here was odd when I found that I had no gurlic for my cooking and couldn't go out to the shops and buy some," she laments. She has a university degree and wants to work, but apart from a little teaching, she can only get a menial job in a store, which she has to carry on

The boredom and frustration suffered by many women in orthodox societies of the Middle East is bound to make them resentful and rebellious. Unable to move around freely, they seek liberation in a diversity of ways

furtively.

She explains her disillusionment in her surroundings and the people she meets: "Everyday life existed in the desert, but it was the daily routine of housewives and didn't go beyond the smell of coriander, the neighbour who only half-opened her door because she had wax on her thighs, fortune-telling in coffee grounds, food on the stove, and gossip and knitting and babies' nappies."

Baseem, Suha's husband, brings friends home and she complains that the conversation between them turns as usual to money and business. She is dismayed by their obsession with talk of money, chances for good deals, and petrol. Initially, Suha tries attending classes to fill in time, but finds them tedious.

"When the women at the exercise class with me began to look like birds and animals, and when at the cake-decorating class I became involved in a vengeful struggle with the lid of the confectioner's cream instead of directing my energies to creating a rose on a cake, or when I began to drink coffee and eat biscuits instead of discussing books, and spent an age trying to make the thread go into the eye of the needle, or even just searching for the needle, I gave it all up and



stayed at home," she broods.

Tamr, a young local woman has been married and divorced twice - the first marriage when she was only 12 and hardly aware of men. She has to go on hunger strike to persuade her brother, under whose protection she lives, to let her go to English lessons. There she becomes a student under Suha and the encounter impresses her deeply: "I didn't hear a word of the lesson," she confesses. "I was looking at the teacher Suha so intently that I was staring into her face, at her hair, her clothes, her shoes and her hands. I thought about where she was living and couldn't ima-

gine that a woman like her would be able to go about the streets in her tight-waisted, low-cut dress, wearing that broad gold belt, long purple ear-rings and purple shoes with open toes which revealed her long toenails painted purple. And the hair, I couldn't find words to describe its colour and style; it fell in tousled disarray over her forehead and ears and neck."

Suzanne, an American, actually claims to like what she calls the monotony of the desert. She enjoys her luxurious lifestyle and having servants to do everything for her, but, rejected by her husband, she finds diversion with an Arab friend.

"He admired our way of life and our possessions, and my knowledge and worldly wisdom: I read out to him the instructions accompanying medications; I sprinkled something from a bottle on a stain on his clothes and it vanished; I could type a line in a flash without looking at the keys; I knew how to find my way around and what the street names were in Arabic; I loved Arab food and dipped my morsels of bread and rice in the meat juices the way that they did. I knew how to adjust the television, change a light bulb, paint a wall, read books, drive a truck." Being admired is Suzanne's

lifeline and when her husband's company goes bankrupt she vows to herself that she won't return to America. "Going back to America was going back to being a speck among the millions, while here I felt aware of my importance every minute of the day; if I just said good morning in Arabic everybody praised me. What does a woman in her forties do in a country swarming with others like her when she's been used to being the one and only?"

Nur, another woman who comes into Suha's life, is also disenchanted with her existence. She lures Suha into a sexual relationship, but Suha is later disgusted with herself and ultimately decides to go back to Lebanon - taking her child with her, but leaving her husband behind. She describes her thoughts as she looks down from the departing aircraft: "The desert came into view, looking as it had done the first time I saw it; sand and palm trees, a way of life that revolved around human beings without possessions or skills, who had to rely on their imaginations to contrive a way of making their hearts beat faster or even to keep them at a normal pace; to search unaided for a hidden gleam of light, and to live with two seasons a year instead of four."

Women of Sand & Myrrh, Hanan Al-Shaykh, Quartet Books Limited. ISBN 0-7043-2736-8.

Special to The Star

FROM THE prices fetched by Islamic works of art, those ordinary things that grandmothers took for granted or left out in the courtyard to rot or rust, you would think that Islamic art has hit the ceiling. Well, not yet; and that comes on good authority from one of the most accomplished dealers on the scene.

Irene Momtaz, the lady and the firm, is an unusual phenomenon on the art scene. The daughter of a consummate art dealer, Irene has quietly built her clientele from a discreet first floor apartment in London while her competitors in Sotheby's and Christie's, to name just the big two, pour out thousands of words and pictures to draw attention to their wares.

Momtaz is emphatic about the future. "Islamic art is nowhere yet. It hasn't really reached its full stature," she said in an interview. "There is going to be a renaissance." This should be reassuring for those who have yet to clean out their attics or basements.

The matter, however, is serious. Islamic art, a term of convenience which can include everything from carpets to Quranic pages, tombstones to everyday trinkets, is still considered by experts to be underpriced, underrated and under the influence of overall trends in the international marketplace for all art, from Andy Warhol to rubber-tyre sculpture to the graffiti-marked chunks of the Berlin Wall.

What's that got to do with the

Islamic art awaits the 'big time'

The skyrocketing prices for works of Islamic art are not to be taken at face value: they haven't reached the top yet. International appreciation of the art form still falls short of the target set by professionals in the field.



Irene Momtaz: "We have become unimaginative in the way we present Islamic art."

Sotheby's, Christie's and Spink. Irene has thrived on the experience gained since childhood. "As a child in Paris I was surrounded with antiques which my father kept at home. Instead of playing with toys, I played with antiques." However, her father discouraged all her early

attempts to get interested in his profession.

It was only after her repeated pleas and due to his own advancing years, that he finally relented when Irene finished her studies. "After all those years of not wanting me to become involved he felt that I was a woman in a

man's world - he realised that I was already too deeply into it. He allowed me to take over his business."

Irene left her job at the cultural office of the French Embassy in London and devoted herself fulltime to the business. "This was 1977, a very nice time to start," she recalled. "Islamic art was like a child being born."

When she took over her father's gallery, his clientele consisted of what she called the old school. "Europeans who really didn't think in terms of building up collections; they were more interested in the aesthetics of a piece." Momtaz didn't think that was enough; she wanted to cultivate clients who would collect on a theme.

Over the years she has done well achieving that objective. For example, she is the only major dealer in London without a gallery which is open to public. Galleries are a waste of time when the clientele becomes exclusive, she hinted. "I need an enormous amount of time. Collectors now demand a lot more information before they acquire objects. Until some years ago you could buy and sell a whole collection rather easily. But now the collector is becoming a scholar as well."

How then is Islamic art to be promoted among the common people? The answer may lie in more and more exhibitions, she said. "It is very important to draw attention to the fact that Islamic art exists and is here for everyone. It is not only for people from the Islamic countries; it has a message, and it is available to the whole world."

Global probe over the Sevso silver

By Naseem Abdallah
Special to The Star

An outstanding collection of Roman silver believed to have been found in Lebanon is the subject of a trans-continental effort to establish its credentials before a scheduled auction in autumn. The sale will be one of the richest ever held, with estimates for the silver collection running at a "conservative" figure of 40 million pound.

WASHINGTON - The art firm Sotheby's has reopened a long-drawn debate on the sale and acquisition of works of art with its unprecedented decision to establish the title of a Roman silver collection to make sure it wasn't smuggled.

The Sevso Collection, estimated to be worth at least 40 million pound, is scheduled to be sold at auction in Zurich later this year - unless someone disputes ownership of the treasure or a part of it.

The collection, comprising 14 pieces of silver - dishes, ewers, and other vessels - from the fourth and fifth century Roman period, is being sold by the Marquess of Northampton Settlement, a family trust in Britain. But because of the complex way in which the collection ended up in the trust, the art firm has launched an international probe to establish that it is clean and that the future buyer will not face counter claims of ownership.

Sotheby's, at the request of the trust, is hoping that a single buyer will acquire all the pieces, but if no-one comes forward with an offer then the auction will go ahead. The silver collection, named after the owner of one of the earliest pieces, a hunting plate from 350 AD, is more brilliantly decorated and of a greater weight and importance than any previously known from that period. It was put on show by Sotheby's in New York from 10 to 20 February.

The treasure is thought to have been concealed for about 1400 years before it was discovered in Lebanon in the 1970s. It is representative of a great variety of silver artefacts manufactured in the east as well as the west of the Roman Empire. All the pieces were in use for many generations and several were repaired in antiquity. It may have been the descendants of Sevso himself who added to the treasure and cared for it until its concealment.

Sotheby's believes the treasure was possibly concealed at the time of the Persian or subsequent Arab conquests in the first half of the seventh century. The silver pieces were packed together into a cauldron, which according to its construction, can be dated to the sixth century.

It is due to the existence of the cauldron that the silver is so exceptionally well preserved, since oxydisation always attacks a base metal more easily than a precious one.

The treasure was subjected to "extensive scholarly and scientific research" which seemed to

confirm the authenticity of the pieces. "The revelation of the existence of such a magnificent treasure inevitably raises questions which Sotheby's, with the help and support of the owner, has rigorously sought to answer," said a news release. Although evidence pointed to

the treasure being found in Lebanon, possibly the Bekaa Valley, and the veracity of export licences issued from Lebanon was confirmed by the Lebanese embassy in Switzerland, Sotheby's went several steps further to build up a "solid provenance" - record of ownership of the silver.

This was done, said the firm, "to ensure that any prospective purchaser will have good and undisputed title to the treasure and that no other claims will be made following the sale."

The exercise included sending descriptions and photographs of the treasure to all other 29 countries which were, all or in part, within the borders of the Roman Empire in the fourth century. The Roman Empire was at its largest in the fourth century AD and included Britain, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Switzerland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Romania, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Germany, Austria and the USSR.

In dossiers sent individually to the cultural authorities of all those countries, Sotheby's requested information as to whether any of the pieces had ever been recorded as stolen.

Similar queries were addressed to Interpol, UNESCO, the New York Stolen Art Register and other agencies.

Sotheby's said it was "confident that the exhaustive and very public process will preclude the possibility of any claims being made at a later date." The search, if at all, might also unearth more information on the origins of the treasure. Sotheby's has agreed with the trust that no sale will take place until such claims are resolved.

Dr Maria Mango, of Oxford University in Britain, who conducted the principal research, said the collection was of outstanding importance. "Future study of the Sevso Treasure will undoubtedly result in the rewriting of the history of Late Antique art," she said.



The 70.5 cm diameter Sevso hunting plate from the fourth century, one of the 14 pieces of late Roman silver.

Dining out...

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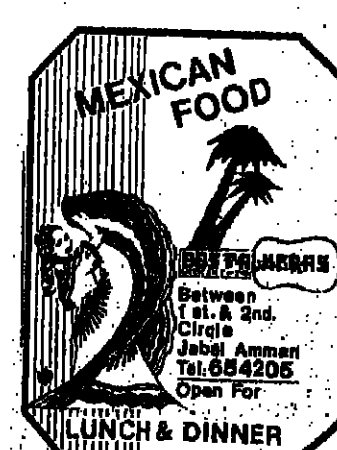
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Arabesques in the marketplace

By Mary Patrick
Special to The Star

Palestinian designer Hassan Bakheit has brought arabesques into the British consumer market with his designs for wrapping paper and greeting cards.

LONDON - What do mugs, toys, and consumer goods produced in Kent, the so-called 'Garden of England,' have in common with the culture of the Arab world? As an answer, Hassan Bakheit, innovator and designer, shows off his creations - a wrapping paper in arabesque designs and greeting cards with Islamic motifs in brass.

Until a few years ago, wrapping papers with 'ethnic' designs were a feature of the specialty shops. Greeting cards in elaborately designed brass are still a novelty, and beyond the reach of the average-income shopper. But the barriers are slowly going down. Bakheit's wrapping paper, for example, is aimed at ordinary people who simply want something nice to wrap their presents in.

That the arabesque design comes from a 14th century tile is a bonus, but a subtle one at that. The pattern appeals to all kinds of people, crossing social and cultural boundaries, and it is this exchange of cultural ideas which is of interest to Hassan Bakheit.

His designs for greeting cards have a clearly revivalist approach. "Nobody else is doing this kind of thing," he said in an interview. For hundreds of years the arabesques have adorned books and manuscript covers, but Hassan believes that bringing them into everyday use will enhance their appeal. Even if most people are unable to understand the designs, he says, their ornate beauty will be a source of pleasure and lead to increased understanding of the Arabic/Islamic culture.

For designs on everyday ob-



Hassan Bakheit with a greeting card designed by him.

jects, such as household mugs, he uses Arabic calligraphy. "People can see our heritage, our arts and crafts, all nice designs. They can use the mug, and look at it, and maybe they'll be asking What is Islam all about? and want to know more about the Middle East and Arab culture." Originally a Palestinian, Hassan started his working life as a mechanical engineer. After some

time in Kuwait, he came to England to study for a higher degree. He took a course in industrial design at the Chelsea College of Art, where he gained a diploma in art and design. However, it was while he was in Cairo, working at a community design workshop, that he first realised the cultural deficit in the Arab toy market.

"I went to lots of nurseries,

and saw children playing with Western toys, such as jigsaw puzzles of British policemen, and they have never even been here! The children knew more about Dynasty and Dallas than their own culture."

It was due to experiences such as these that he decided to start designing culture-related products.

He explained, "Most of the de-

signers are from the West. They design from their experience in the West, from their culture and habits and way of life. We end up in the Third World taking their designs whether they suit us or not."

Furthermore, Hassan said when manufacturers or dealers can't sell any more Mickey Mouse mugs, or similar items, in the West, they sell them cheap in the developing world. His response is, "let us sell our own culture, show it to people. Tell them this is what we are all about." Hassan decided to fill this gap in the market by starting his own company, Dove Designs, which has since grown into Dashclever Limited. Despite some success, however, he admits that things have not been easy.

In September last year, Hassan received a design award at a conference on Cultural Identity and Design in Germany for a jigsaw puzzle based on The Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem. Although the wooden toy received international acclaim and interest, he has been unable to convince a manufacturer to market the toy in affordable plastic.

But Bakheit is optimistic. As the international marketplace becomes more competitive and crowded, he said, businesses will have to look for new avenues. The developing world, and the Middle East in particular, is a growing consumer market, and his time may come then.

He hopes that his toys will create cultural interaction between children of the Middle East and children in the West and help lessen the distance between cultures at an early stage.

ECONOMY

The Star

Back in business??

Money changers await Lower House approval of new law on their profession

By Ahmad Shaker
Special to The Star

AMMAN - Money changers will be operating again during the coming few weeks when a new law regulating their profession is passed by the Lower House before the end of March, informed sources told The Star.

The new law was given priority over other laws so as to be put before the Lower House before the current session of Parliament ends on 27 March.

The law gives the Central Bank the authority to licence individuals or groups of people involved in the money changing business, and licences will be renewed on annual basis. The Central Bank will deduct as fees three per cent of the capital, paid one time only, and an annual fee of one per cent of the capital paid in December of each year.

Article eight paragraph A of the proposed law requests that the money changer deposits half of the declared capital in cash at the Central Bank or any licensed bank.

The law has defined the activities of money changers as follows: Buying and selling of monetary notes and foreign coins, buying and selling of cheques

and travelers cheques, buying and selling of precious metals, maintaining accounts in foreign currencies at licensed local banks or financial institutions, maintaining foreign currency accounts at foreign banks, issuing transfer orders and exporting bank notes, currencies and precious metals.

The Central Bank has given itself the right to regulate rates of exchange for foreign currencies.

The law prohibits money changers from opening current or deposit accounts for local clients, offering credits and loans, issuing bank guarantees or buying promissory notes, speculating in foreign currencies or precious metals and borrowing from foreign banks without the written consent of the Central Bank.

The law also allowed hotels and travel agents to buy foreign currencies and travelers cheques from non-residing clients so long as they sell these currencies and notes back to the Central Bank or to commercial banks operating in Jordan.

The Central Bank has also requested that money changers submit half-annual reports in addition to annual financial reports. Penalties for failing to do so range from a minimum of JD 500 fine to three-month suspension.



Waiting for the good news

sion and cancellation of the licence. Jail imprisonment and heavy fines are also included for violators of regulations mentioned in Article 29 of the law which also includes fraud and

embezzlement. Priority in issuing licences will be given to money changing companies which existed before 8 February 1989 on the condition that their assets exceed their liabilities.

Dollar picks up in a tense buying spree

Amman (Star) - The US dollar has made a noticeable rise against the Jordanian dinar this week in the parallel (black) market. Sources told The Star that the dollar was selling at JD .690 Wednesday morning. They expected the rate of exchange to stabilise at JD .695 to JD .700 to the dollar during the coming week. Reasons for this, the sources said, were due to anxious buying by traders fearing another rise in the price of the dollar in April. Currently the dollar sells at the official rate of JD .675 in commercial banks.

Briefs

● The Greater Amman Municipality will purchase seven garbage-collecting trucks at a cost of JD 210,000. The deal will be financed through a World Bank loan.

● The Government has approved an agreement with the European Community (EC) to finance a geological survey project to be undertaken by the Natural Resources Authority (NRA). The EC's grant amounts to JD 780,000.

● Jordan and Japan's Overseas Co-operation Fund have agreed to reschedule the Kingdom's debts of JD 35 million. Jordan's Minister of Finance will sign the rescheduling agreement on behalf of the Government.

● A technical team from the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) will visit Jordan to prepare for filming a television programme on the water situation in Jordan. Ad-Dastour newspaper reported Tuesday.

Exploiting natural resources in ancient Arabia



Professor Costa

AMMAN (Star) - How did the people of ancient Arabia manage to have successful agriculture, supported by sophisticated hydraulics systems using wells, water mills and other technologies in areas now often thought of as unusable desert? And can their experiences help us to deal with the ecological problems of today? Professor Paolo Maria Costa of the universities of Naples and Venice, will consider these questions in a lecture on "Settlement and Exploitation of Natural Resources in Ancient Arabia" to be given at the Royal Cultural Centre today, Thursday, at 7:00.

In his lecture Professor Costa will discuss how the people of the Arabian Peninsula have adapted to their environment drawing examples from settle-

ment patterns, defences, land use and irrigation and agriculture.

Specific examples of environmental adaptation, including hydraulics in ancient Arabia, agricultural estates, the case of the "hanging garden" of Wadi Bani Kharas and water mills and other aspects of water exploitation will be covered.

Professor Costa's qualifications and experience in Middle Eastern Archaeology are wide ranging and impressive. He studied Roman and Middle Eastern archaeology at the University of Turin. From 1964-70 he taught archaeology at the University of Baghdad and worked on the development of the new Iraqi Museum. From 1970-75 he worked as archaeological advisor to the Yemen Arab Republic and also carried out extensive archaeological surveys and a range of restoration work. Professor Costa then spent 10 years in the Sultanate of Oman as archaeological advisor and editor of the Journal of Oman Studies.

He is now affiliated to the Italian Institute for Middle and Far East (ISMEO).

and is a member of the Steering Committee of the conference Arabia Antiqua which is to be held in Rome in May 1991. Professor Costa's lecture will be illustrated with slides, maps and diagrams.

Promoting the Seventh Art

By Hind Lara Mango
Special to The Star

HIGHLY AWARE of the significant role the Seventh Art plays in influencing the social, cultural and political life of the people, a group of Jordanian volunteers, headed by the well-known cinema critic Hassan Abu Ghaneemeh, have set-up Jordan's Cinema Club with view to presenting the public with films of "substance and depth."

Abu Ghaneemeh says the club aims at providing the public with an alternative to the low standard, and stereo-type commercial films which have swept the Jordanian market. "Cinema goes in Jordan have gotten used to watching stereo-type Egyptian melodramas, Indian productions of low standards and movies filled with the typical American gimmicks. They rarely have the chance to watch other films of high quality," says Abu Ghaneemeh.

Accordingly, the club daily presents its members with five films of "good quality" which are obtained from their original countries, foreign cultural centres in Amman, and Abu Ghaneemeh's own rich library of 3000 films.



Hassan Abu Ghaneemeh

neemeh's own rich library of 3000 films.

Due to the absence of any professional films institution in the country, the seven-year-old club has also undertaken the task of "educating the public in cinema industry."

Every Monday, the club holds discussions on films of controversial nature, analysing the technical as well as the thematic dimensions of these films. Such activities are conducted both in Amman and other parts of the Kingdom, and are open to the public.

The only club of its kind in the Arab world, Jordan Cinema Club has also published nine books, and hundreds of booklets on the various cinema schools in the world. It has strong connections with Arab film institutions, and has, on many occasions, hosted producers and script writers from many countries including Egypt and the Soviet Union.

According to Abu Ghaneemeh, a writer of 15 books on cinema, the club is also involved in organising film festivals in Jordan. It expects to supervise a film festival on the development of the Arabic cinema which will be held in Jerash, and is currently arranging for the Arab Film Week which will take place in May. Prominent producers, actors, and actresses are likely to attend the event.

The club, which is financed by donations from its members, publishes a bi-weekly specialised newspaper and is working on an Arabic cinema encyclopedia. Abu Ghaneemeh says the plans are also underway for setting up a documentation centre that will record all the information and researches of the club.

Haddid: ABC (Jordan) to become operational in June

the bank is JD 10 million of which 60 per cent is owned by the Bahrain-based ABC.

Mr Haddid said that the JD equivalent of foreign currency loans to Jordan was injected into the new bank's equity. "I don't rule out similar swaps in the future should there be an agreement with foreign lenders," he said.

He said such deals help lower the foreign debt burden of countries like Jordan and help support their financial systems.

Mr Haddid, a well-known Jordanian banker, said ABC Bahrain will move soon to "strengthen its financial muscle" by increasing its capital from \$ 1.25 billion to \$1.5 billion through floating a new capital issue of \$0.25 billion to cover its worldwide banking operations which now extend from North America, Europe, the Middle East to the Far East.

In Jordan, ABC hopes to use its new outlet to offer financing to imports to the Kingdom, specifically with regard to capital goods, raw materials and basic consumer goods.

Mr Haddid said that before moving into Jordan, ABC's policy was to cover its international representation. Later, however, the corporation started looking



Jawad Haddid

at the Arab world as part of its new expansion strategy. He added that ABC chose Jordan mainly because of the availability of infrastructural, monetary and fiscal facilities.

As to choosing the Housing Bank as their Jordanian counterpart, Mr Haddid said the Housing Bank is one of the biggest Jordanian banks with branches all over the Kingdom, and extensive experience in credits, however it needed ABC's international banking links and both banks looked at such an association as a complementing the services they offer locally, he said.

ABC (Jordan) will be a full-fledged commercial bank with services ranging from credit to non-credit-based activities, covering areas such as portfolio management, setting up mutual funds, offering financial advice-

ries especially with regard to corporates which need capital restructuring and financing. Mr Haddid said this can be done through medium and long-term capital market instruments. Also, he said, ABC (Jordan) will be offering its services to governmental bodies with a view to giving special attention to their financing needs in the years to come.

He said there was no harm at this stage in allowing money changers to operate again provided that both money changers and banks are given equal opportunities to compete for soliciting foreign exchange assets and the sale of foreign currency. However, he warned that money changers should be restricted in their activities to trading currency notes as is the case in most parts of the world. He said money changers should not assume a banking role which violates regulations governing their activities.

Regarding the foreign exchange situation in Jordan, the former deputy general manager of the Jordan Arab Investment Bank, said that as long as the Central Bank is in a position to provide banks operating in Jordan with their "legitimate" for-

eign currency requirements, the pressure on the parallel market will be very light, thus minimising disparity between official and free market exchange rates. He said while much of the confidence has been restored in the Jordanian dinar because of Central Bank's recent policies, banks should not be forced to secure their foreign currency needs from sources that exclude the Central Bank. The recent high demand on the dollar is attributed to another wave of speculation and that bank should resort to offering higher interest rates on dinar deposits to offset any rise in the rate of the dollar beyond the official rate of exchange. Mr Haddid said that bank's should move away from traditional lending policies which used to depend on the trade sector to financing the growing needs of the industrial sector in the country.

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2 mos.	8.5/16	8.9/16	15.1/8	7.40	9.3/16
3 mos.	8.5/16	8.7/8	15.3/12	7.43	9.5/16
6 mos.	8.7/16	8.7/8	15.3/16	7.56	9.5/16
1 year	8.5/8	9.5/16	15.5/16	7.65	9.3/8

Interbank rates (Jordan):

Saving accounts 7%. Call accounts 8%, 1 week 8.5%, 1 months 9%, 2 months 9.125%, 3 months 9.25%, 1 year 9.5%. Lending rate (AAA) 12%.

Dollar:

	DMK	SFR	STG	YEN	CAN	FFR
LAST	1.6895/00	1.4845/55	1.6910/20	148.75/80	1.1960/65	5.6750/80

Source: Amman Bank for Investment, Tel: 642701

Rule-of-thumb

Insecticides

INVESTORS WISHING to invest in the preparation and manufacturing of insecticides should, after getting an approval to establish a factory, submit an application to the Ministry of Agriculture declaring and agreeing to the following:

- 1) Type of insecticide.
- 2) No more than one insecticide, proposed for preparation and manufacturing must be listed in one application, submitted to the Insecticides Committee. All documents should be submitted to the Committee and approval should be obtained before any type of insecticide can be manufactured.
- 3) Approval must be granted in writing and a registration number, particular to the insecticide, identifies each insecticide type.
- 4) Any produced insecticide should conform with the documentation data according to which registration was granted. Any insecticide, released in the market, which violates its original documentation data will be immediately destroyed.
- 5) A "batch number" affixed on the insecticides container, should identify the production code of locally made insecticides.
- 6) Material specifications and material sourcing of insecticide/insecticides should not be changed. The Committee should approve any change in active and inactive substances.

with reference to the first requirement (see 1), the type of insecticide and the percentage of active material should be stated. Full information on the active and inactive (primary materials) substances should be stated. Type of container, the size and weight of the container should be stated. National, chemical, and poisonous properties, as well as side effects should be declared. The poison factor to plants, and its effect on bees, fish, soil and other insects should be stated.

Other requirements: Trade name and proposed label should be stated in Arabic. End user and use of crops and the validity period should be stated and clarified.

Matchmaking

Kent

Manufacturers and producers of food products: candies, chocolate, bonbons and jellibon. Kent products are at (WHO-FAO) world standards. Tel (1) 1330040, Fax (1) 1413828. Telex: 22152 tahnt. Istanbul/Turkey

CIMET

Producers of sausage, fried meat salami, pastami hot dogs and beef. Jambon. Liaison office: Intam 99 Kat: 6 No.: 47 Bursa/Turkey. Tel (24) 551010 (4 lines). Factory: Tel. (2483) 1131 or (2483) 1412.

This free-of-charge service is available to local and foreign businessmen. To publish your commercial interests in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Made-in-Jordan

US Importers to visit Jordan

WITH THE objective of promoting Jordanian made goods in the North American market, the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) together with the Private Services Development Project (PSDP) are considering the possibility of a visit by importers from the United States to study selected Jordanian manufactured items to be promoted in the USA.

The visit will be preceded by research done by local organizations and foreign consultants to assess exportable Jordanian products, conduct a product cost and price comparison and to assess current demand and source of US imports.

If all went according to plans, the possible visit should materialise some time during the beginning of the second half of 1990.

The visit is expected to open doors to Jordanian exporters wishing to enter the North American market in as far as introducing Jordanian manufacturers to potential US importers on face to face basis and the effect that this might have in penetrating this highly sophisticated market.

For more information, please contact the Jordan Trade Association (JTA), P.O. Box 830432, Amman-Jordan. Tel: 685603/4.

Gold & Silver

	JD
Gold	9,975.000
1kg	7,800
21 ct	6,700
18 ct	
Eng. pound	64.500
8g	
Rashad:	56.500
7g	
24ct(swiss)	9,700
Silver	
1 kg	160.000

Money Matters

Average exchange rates on

in JLD

	Buy	Sell
\$	670.0	674.0
Pound	1144.3	1151.2
DM	399.2	401.7
Sfr	454.4	457.1
YFR	117.9	118.6
YEN	455.4	458.1
(100)		
DFL	354.4	356.5
SKR	109.4	110.1
LIT	54.0	54.3
(100)		
BLF	191.8	193.0
(10)		

Consumer Watch

Auto Repair

WHY IS it difficult to know "in advance," how much one should pay once one's car enters the mechanic's shop? Why, if you purchase a brand new car, your mechanic would still tell you that "in that old car a dozen things need urgent service?"

A mechanical engineer, who is also a self-employed mechanic, gave us the following tips:

- There is no guide or list which announces names of mechanics with a rich complaint record. "Informal information" do not usually result in a satisfactory opinion.

- Those who approach the mechanic are not usually specific about what they want done or even about the problem they are facing. "Local mechanics do not give a chance to the car owner to diagnose the problem once the car enters their shops. They get offended."

- Most mechanics purposely ignore the car owner's permission before they do a work beyond the car owner's original request. "This is a way of making more money."

- Mechanics, most of them, would do anything but not to let the owner take with him or her replaced parts. "Mechanics do not realise how essential it is for the car owner to inspect and keep replaced parts."

Should we not consider that work orders and work receipts/bill as important as any other legal document? Is it not difficult to keep everything in writing?

Contracts & Contacts

- Sale of vehicle remains (parts). Royal Maintenance Force Directorate/Armed Forces. JD 15. 25/3/1990.
- 18/90 - 22/90. Supply of oil can holders, cascades, safety materials, welding bars and chemicals (metal deactivator, Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. JD 5 and 3. 1/4/1990).
- 15/90. Lubricating oils. General Supplies Department JD 25. 3/3/1990.
- Supplies for medical laboratories. National Medical Institution. JD 100. 1/4/1990.
- 915 Meters of summer fabrics and tailoring of 293 suits. Central Bank of Jordan. 3/3/1990.
- T 2/90, T 3/90 and T 4/90. Spare parts, aluminum bridge reel and light bulbs. Civil Aviation Authority. JD 3, JD 3 and JD 5. 3/3/1990.
- Annex to 30/89 and 64/89. Drilling Wallah water-phase two. Closing dates extended to 21/3/1990 and 14/3/1990. Government Tenders Department.
- Plane Insurance. Royal Air Force. 5/3/1990.

- B 1/90 - B/5/90. Gravel for roads. Balqa'a (Governorate Directorate of Works. 4/3/1990. JD 10 each.

- 10/90. Household appliances and sewing machines. 543/89. MAN bus spare parts. General Supplies Department. 14/3/1990 and 19/3/1990. JD 5 and JD 10.

- 13/90. Window type air conditioning equipment. Jordan Electricity Authority/Aqaba Housing 7/3/1990. JD 5.

- 26/90 - 31/90. Soaps, detergents, sewage liquid, detergents and gas cookers. 17/3, 18/3, 19/3, 20/3 and 21/3/1990. JD 5 each.

- 7/90. Purchase of 1,000 tons of (frozen) meat. 14/3/1990. JD 25. Ministry of Supply.

- 10/90. Purchase of 4,000 tons of (frozen) poultry. 13/3/1990. JD 25.

This service is free-of-charge. To publish your tenders in this corner please tear-off this box (do not photocopy) and send with tender, auction, public sale, garage sale, bazaar sale, etc., details to: Economy Editor, On-Line, The Star, P.O. Box 9313, Amman-Jordan.

Industrial Estates

Arminian Roll Forming Machine

Location: Amman Industrial Estate/Sahab
Starting Production Date: End of 1989
Ownership: 100% Syrian
Invested Capital: JD 200,000
Number of Workers: 12 workers

Type of Production:

● Industrial and Constructional Machines

There is no question that a country's industrial development greatly depends on starting manufacturing of its required machines, equipments and spare parts.

The significant role of this company is due to its capability of manufacturing different kinds of machines in addition to making maintenance and some modifications of the existing ones. Within a short period of its operation, the company successfully manufactured two unique Roll Forming Machines described as being the first in the Middle East in terms of size and productivity. The company exports about 50 % of its production to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the Arab Emirates. Also it is looking forward to expand its exports to cover Iraq and the Gulf countries.

Arminian Roll Forming Machine
P.O. Box: 2
Amman Industrial Estate

Tel: 722735-6

Shows & Exhibition

Industrial Machinery Show

THE 1990 Taipei International Industrial Machinery Show will be held for the third time, at the Taipei World Trade Centre Exhibition Hall, 6-12, April 1990. The show is organized by the China External Trade Development Council (CETDC) and the Taiwan Association of Machinery Industry (TAMI). Industrial machinery on display have been divided into eight major areas: Rubber and plastic, Packaging and printing, Textile, Metal, Machine tools, Hydraulic and pneumatic, Parts and auxiliary, other machinery and trade media.

Alongside the show, the German Industrial Products Show, organized by the German Trade Office Taipei, will be held at the same time. Contact: Fax: 886-2-7251314, Tel: 28094. TPBWTC and 10971 TPBWTC. Tel: (02) 725-1111. 5, Hsinyi Road, Sec. 5, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China.

Water problems in the Middle East alleviated?

The controversial Peace Pipeline Project proposed by Turkey arouses international interest. Mr Seyfi Tashan, director of Foreign Policy Institute of Turkey, presents the following views on this project.

TURKEY'S LINKS with the Middle Eastern countries are increasing, not only because of the increase in traffic along the Turkish highways that connect Europe to the Middle East, but also the existing pipelines and the projected gas and oil pipelines will provide a permanent link and interdependence between Turkey and her Middle Eastern neighbours. The regular supply of water from rivers in Turkey, either as free flow or pumped through pipelines, will provide a reciprocity and help to strengthen common bonds.

The Peace Pipeline Project seeks to provide a supply of water available from sources of excess in Turkey and deliver a steady supply to regions of need in Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Arab Gulf States. A feasibility study is proposed to enable a thorough technical and economic analysis to ensure that such a project can be brought to full realisation.

The water delivered through the Peace Pipeline is not intended to replace, but rather supplement, existing water supplies in the countries served. This additional source of water will allow for greater economic expansion and development of the region, and will improve the dependability of supply.

Water for the project will be obtained from excess water in the Seyhan and Ceyhan Rivers.

The General Directorate of The Turkish State Hydraulic Works (DSI) has extensive hydrology records on the Seyhan and Ceyhan Rivers, and has done a considerable amount of research on the amount of water available and surplus water in the two rivers.

The DSI has developed master plans on the ultimate use of the waters of the two rivers and has made calculations on the quantity of the surplus water that will flow into the Mediterranean after projected agricultural, industrial and domestic utilisation have been satisfied.

The DSI calculates that the average flow in the Seyhan and Ceyhan is 39.17 million cubic meters per day. The planned use of this water in Turkey is approximately 23.04 million cubic meters per day. Thus, an average of 16.1 million cubic metres of water per day remains available for other humanitarian uses. Extensive development in the watersheds of the two rivers has already occurred and many dams have been constructed. More dams are planned and others are under construction at the present time.

The technical feasibility study was based on a flow of 3,500,000 cubic metres per day for the Gulf Pipeline.

This water is to be distributed to the main population centres along each route by assigning flows in approximate proportion to their respective populations.

1 MARCH 1990

Investcorp of Bahrain showed \$51.8 million in profits last year

THE ARABIAN Investment Banking Corp. (Investcorp) EC, the Bahrain-based investment bank, reports 1989 profits of \$51.8 million from transactions involving European luxury goods companies and American retailers and real estate. This represents a 12.1 per cent increase over 1988's net profits.

During the year, Investcorp placed several hundred million dollars of senior and subordinated debt and equity securities. This included private placement of \$135 million debt and equity in the luxury goods companies Gucci, Chaumet, and Breguet. Investcorp took controlling shares in Chaumet, the French jeweller, in 1987. Breguet is Chaumet's watchmaking subsidiary.

Gulf clients took 28 per cent of Gucci's shares last year, although voting power over the shares remains with Investcorp.

The bank continued its European acquisitions last year. It added to its shares of Gucci (Italy) and Gucci America Inc., raising its total interests in both companies to 50 per cent. It also bought Pineider, a 200-year-old Italian company that makes luxury stationery and related products. And it invested \$35.2 million in Computacenter Ltd., taking 30 per cent of Britain's leading micro-computer systems house.

The bank says it is currently working on several other European purchases, aiming to extend its penetration of the European market while maintaining a strong presence in North America. Last year, its European Acquisition Fund was raised to \$80.9 million from \$48.5 million after being oversubscribed by more than 100 per cent.

In America, Investcorp bought Color Tile, Inc., the leading domestic speciality retailer of floor coverings, from Knoll International Holdings. The transaction, completed on December 29, is valued at about \$450 million. The bank also paid more than \$80 million earlier for Carvel Corp., the third largest ice cream retailer in the US, whose 700 stores are located primarily on the East Coast. And the sporting goods retailer Sports and Recreation Inc. (Sports Unlimited) was purchased for \$40 million.

Meanwhile the bank sold Peebles Inc., the US department store chain, and bought a former New York City hotel building, at 2-10 East 86th Street, in order to convert it into 55 luxury condominium residences.

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Assets grew 9.2 per cent, to \$813.9 million. Last year's record profits resulted in the payment of a \$15 cash dividend, 15 per cent of paid-in share capital, to the more than 11,000 public shareholders. Total shareholders' funds were \$194.6 million at December 31, 1989. The firm's shares are quoted on the new Bahrain Stock Exchange, but no foreign listings are planned.

its success to the support of its growing customer base. Also of prime importance is its commitment to creating strong equity in its acquisitions in order to accommodate both growth and changing market conditions and developments in the economic environment. Innovative financial and strategic management help add value to the investments.

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Our Say...

Stressing needs for a summit

THE ONE-DAY summit of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) leaders, which took place in Amman this week, has focused the attention of the four member countries on the urgent issues at hand. The four leaders of the ACC have made their positions clear on the most important developments in this region.

But in order for these positions to be realised in an effective manner there must be common action and joint efforts on everybody's part.

What concerns us here is the future. For the Arabs to be effective in their dealings with the rest of the world they must act in unison and stand by each other in international arenas while presenting their case.

But before this could take place, the Arab leaders from the Maghreb to the Gulf must meet again under the Arab League's auspices to define the priorities of their future strategies. This Arab summit, as His Majesty King Hussein said, must be well-prepared for because it will be different from previous meetings. Agreements and resolutions must be provided with the vehicles to maintain themselves after the summit ends.

The need for well defined and joint Arab action is now more urgent for more than one reason. First, preparations are underway to hold the first Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo, which will pave the way for formal negotiations on peace in the Middle East and will lead to elections in the occupied Arab territories. Without firm Arab stand, the Palestinians will find themselves under heavy pressures from both Israel and the United States to give more concessions.

Second, the Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab territories will continue to pose a serious danger to the whole Arab Order. While the United States has attempted in the past few days to assure the Arabs that it does not condone settling immigrants in the occupied areas, one must look carefully at Israeli actions and not be satisfied with the lip service paid by Israel to the Americans.

Third, the Arabs must come to grips with the fact that a joint Arab strategy is urgently needed to deal with the changing political and economic climates in the world, especially in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Without projecting themselves as a united economic, political and strategic power, the Arabs will not be taken seriously by the emerging blocs in West and East Europe. There is much to be gained by directing Arab economic and political interests in these areas.

Fourth, regional conflicts will not be solved until the Arabs deal with them decisively and with determination. The conflicts in Lebanon, Sudan, the Arab Gulf and other areas will continue to obstruct development and re-construction during this decade if the Arabs do not take a firm stand from them. This may require economic, political and military pressures to be used at all costs and without hesitation. The stakes are high, but so are the gains.

Fifth and last but not least, the Arabs must take economic complementarity seriously because it is the only hope left for joining up with the rest of the world. Huge Arab investments must pour into Arab countries like Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria to end these countries' dependency on outside aid. After all, economic dependency means political dependency and without a free political and economic will all talk about self-determination and preserving the Arab Order will mean little in the real world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let the law decide

To the editor,

I refer to your article on Petra Bank employees' sit-in (The Star 22 February). I was astonished that the management, which was appointed by the government after using martial laws to dissolve an elected board of directors, was debating whether the employees were on strike or not, instead of admitting its failure to assure them of a fair treatment. Strike or no strike, I believe the Petra Bank case has gone overboard and it is time the public inspected the facts of this shameful affair.

If the previous management was indeed corrupt, then let the law and the shareholders decide on that and not the present management or any other party. Meanwhile, I am sure that the bank's employees resorted to their sit-in protest only after desperation and discontent.

A shareholder,
Irbid, Jordan.

The Star

12 THE STAR



Guest column

Why a breakthrough in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict may be around the corner

By Elias H. Tuma

THE PROSPECTS for a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians may be better than suggested by the continued daily killings and injuries in the occupied territories. The prospects may be good, not because Yasser Arafat has predicted Palestinian independence by 1992, nor because Ariel Sharon is resigning from the cabinet, but because of the recent realism and pragmatism demonstrated by Palestinian and Israeli leaders alike.

Mr Shamir's election plan for the territories is a compromise as he has become convinced that no settlement can be reached without the Palestinians. His retreat on Ezer Weizman's dismissal from the cabinet is a compromise because he knows that if the coalition were to fall and elections to be held now he has no assurance that he would be returned to power. And his decision to continue the peace process despite the recent attack on the tour bus is a compromise because he knows that co-operation with Egypt is his best strategy for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shamir has compromised because he senses accurately that the tide is changing and the gains Israel has realised are worth compromising for. I am speaking of changes within Israel, within the region, and on the international scene, all of which suggest that new directions in Israeli policies are warranted.

Looking at events within Israel and the occupied territories, Shamir sees that the military option to suppress the Intifada and end the conflict has failed; the Palestinian identity has become a reality which cannot be ignored; more and more experts and analysts within Israel urge recognition of Palestinian rights to self-determination.

On the positive side, Shamir sees that Israel has achieved more than it had anticipated: it has removed the violent conflict to outside its boundaries, secured recognition of UN resolutions 242 and 338 by the PLO and all other Arab states.

He also sees that when in the future Israel negotiates a settlement, it will negotiate from a position of strength for more security and possibly more territory than it has had reason to hope for.

On the other hand, Shamir has cause to be concerned with events in the region. Egypt and Syria have "reconciled" their positions, while Egypt is still playing the role of mediator in the peacemaking process.

Though Syria has in a way reached a tacit agreement regarding its southwestern

border with Israel, that position cannot be expected to last forever, nor can Syria's military power be ignored. Finally, Israel's experiences in Lebanon have made it obvious that a warpath in the region cannot be viable.

Probably the most pressing events in the direction of pragmatism are those which have occurred on the international scene, especially in Eastern Europe, Soviet Russia and South Africa, all of which favour democracy, self-determination and human rights. Long-established regimes have crumbled. Decades-old institutions have been reshuffled overnight. Fortifications of power and military rule have been liquidated, all in the name of freedom, independence and liberty. Probably most effective of all may be the dramatic change taking place in South Africa. After more than a century of exploitation and absolute domination of the blacks, South African white leaders now agree to negotiate a peaceful settlement of their conflict.

Instead of being forced into action by events, most probably Shamir would rather step forward and guide those events, as his election plan demonstrates. However, even if all these arguments for pragmatism fail, Shamir is not one to ignore the threat of losing the support of Israel's most devoted and blindly-committed ally, the United States.

The threat of losing support on both the diplomatic and material levels is real, as suggested by recent statements by American legislators.

A reduction in the level of confrontation in the occupied territories, not of protest and demonstration for independence, could lead to withdrawal of troops and to less meddling by the military in the affairs of the people.

No doubt Shamir is aware of the growing international public opinion urging a settlement with guarantees of peace with security, which the Palestinians are willing to conclude.

He is aware of the fact that time might have been on the side of Israel, but not anymore. There is an Intifada within the Palestinian community and outside it. Most probably an Intifada is going on in Shamir's own community. Begin and Sadat experienced it and resolved the Egyptian-Israeli conflict.

It is not unlikely that Shamir and Arafat will experience it too and resolve the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Elias Tuma is a professor of economics at the University of California, Davis, California; the above article appeared in the Palestinian weekly, Al-Fajr, issue No. 510.

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Women and work in Jordan

By Nadia Takriti Kamal

DEVELOPMENT DOES not discriminate between males and females. In fact, it is conditional that both sexes work together in order for development to occur.

In the Arab world, women's involvement in the labour force is a political issue; sometimes it is brought into light and sometimes it is stalked on the shelf. Nevertheless, it is a big issue bearing social, economic as well as political dimensions.

This article attempts to display the characteristics of female employment in Jordan; obstacles facing their participation in the labour force; and factors affecting expectations for their future involvement.

Women constitute 52 per cent of the total population in Jordan. But only 12 per cent of the labour force are females. Forty per cent of female participations is in the age group of 20-29 years. It falls to 11 per cent in the age group of 30-39 and declines to 4 per cent in the age group of 40-49 years.

This is not surprising in a country with 7.4 average children per family. Where women almost completely shoulder the responsibility of housework and the upbringing of the children.

But even though women's involvement in the labour force is rising to higher percentages, this increase does not proportionally correlate with the educational levels achieved by women or even their willingness and ability to join the country's workforce.

About 10.8 per cent of the female workers are illiterate, 6.5 per cent can read and write, 4.2 per cent have elementary education, 5.2 per cent have preparatory education and 71 per cent have vocational training.

Another 38.6 per cent are college graduates, and those with university degrees make up 12 per cent of the female workers. The largest employer of females is the public sector which employs 76.7 per cent of the women workforce. The work day in the public sector suits the working women in terms of working hours and vacations which allow them time to handle their domestic responsibilities.

Women's participation in trade, hotels and restaurants has increased to 4.88 per cent. But it remains far below that of men. In financial services and insurance sector it remains higher (at 4.25 per cent) than the sectoral average for men. Industry employs only 7.2 per cent and agriculture has a share of 3.86 per cent and would increase with improving survey techniques, limiting foreign labour, and

increasing Jordanian labour migration which often leaves the land for women to take care of.

The ratio of professionals to total female participation is 49.6 per cent. In this category we have 24,000 teachers, out of estimated total of 62,139 workers.

About 21.3 per cent are clerks and office workers and this high percentage is due to the fact that 38.6 per cent of the workers have college degrees. Administrators are only 0.96 per cent of female workers.

Unemployed females are 27 per cent of the total female labourforce. More than 60 per cent are college and uni-

There was a woman's sector classified separately from other sectors in the plan. That is fine if it meant to lead to increasing opportunities of female employment structurally, but there is fear that women are marginalised in a plan which should concentrate on the disadvantaged to lift them up to equal levels with others.

b- Executive measures are lacking. Projects such as day care centres that serve the working woman are still largely inadequate and costly. More importantly, regulations concerning the establishment of day care centres in institutions according to the ratio of females employed may have a negative impact discouraging female employment. It is suggested that they be linked to employment regardless of sex. There are no laws to protect women from discrimination. For example: in industry, employers avoid recruiting women to avoid cost of maternity leave and day care centres. Some commercial establishments employ only single women.

c- The government does not adopt women's participation as a matter of strategy. It is more of a means to address changes in employment according to economic bases. Female participation was encouraged in the mid 70's to mid 80's but with recession and increasing unemployment, women are more vulnerable.

Sometimes it is a means for population control considering that a working woman has less children than an unemployed one.

There should be political backing for women's involvement in professions other than teaching, nursing and office and secretarial work.

Expectations for change in female involvement in the labourforce depend on different factors.

Economic considerations relate to: rate of immigration of Jordanian labourforce, rate of change in foreign labour, rate of economic growth, control on public sector employment and increase in poverty line. Some of these factors have positive effects while some have a negative impact.

Social factors include: Male participation in housekeeping and child care, paying due respect to women's education as an investment in her spiritual, physical, social, scientific and creative capacities and pressures on the standard of living are a driving force.

On the national level legislation and laws might change in favour of women and be implemented through feasible measures. Education and mass media can play a special role influencing social norms and practices.

PS: All figures in this article have been drawn from Department of Statistics publications dating to 1987.



View Point

by
Yacoub Jabbar

Countering the US procrastination

MANY SIGNS indicate that the United States believes it is too soon to seek peace in the Middle East. The US administration keeps vacillating and procrastinating in a ploy designed to maintain things as they are with no intention to make progress towards the long-cherished peace settlement.

Since US Secretary of State James Baker put forth his five-point plan which Israel had rejected and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accepted with reservation, not one concrete step has been taken to advance the plan or put it or part of it into effect. The long-awaited Palestinian-Israeli dialogue has stalled, not only because of Israeli intransigence, but also because the US seems to have lost interest in launching it on realistic and viable basis.

Few weeks ago, Secretary Baker threatened to abandon his peace efforts in the Middle East and turn his attention to other areas where progress was possible. Many thought at the time that Baker's frustration was directed at Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir who has been aborting all attempts to facilitate the holding of the Palestinian-Israeli talks. They were wrong. Baker's remarks were directed at the PLO to force it to make still more concessions, or perhaps they were intended to provide a pretext for giving up the peace process once and for all.

The US reluctance to move the peace process ahead coincides with the massive influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. The United States seems to have found the answer to Israel's problems. Israel may be able to crush the Intifada through the new waves of Jewish immigrants who can substitute the exhausted Israeli soldiers. The immigrants provide Israel with trained personnel and fill the already half-empty Jewish settlements in the occupied territories. Israel needs time to fulfil these objectives. So why the rush toward a settlement while Israel is engaged in the process of absorbing the new immigrants who will make it more powerful and consequently more capable of resisting peace endeavours.

That, perhaps, explains why the United States abstained from a vote for a resolution at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva which calls on Israel not to settle the immigrants in the occupied Arab territories. And that alone is sufficient to prompt the Arabs to treat the US moves with scepticism and extreme caution and try instead to find new ways to foil the US-Israeli engineered schemes.

For the moment, providing the Palestinians with all available means to continue and escalate their uprising is the most effective answer to the US deliberate procrastination.

From the Cold War to piecemeal peace?

By Sajid Rizvi
Special to The Star

LONDON - Do the gathering storms of upheaval in Central Asia and Eastern Europe make you wish the Cold War was still on? Probably not, but suddenly the world, while seeming to be nearer a nuclear peace, seems to be more uncertain of its direction. Is this the price one must pay for the triumph of democracy? Perhaps.

On balance, however, the risks which remain are just about as formidable as the receding danger of a superpower confrontation becoming a thermonuclear conflagration. These are the "What if" uncertainties represented by the as yet unfinished processes of perestroika and glasnost in the Soviet Union, the troop withdrawals in Europe, the fragile balance between dictatorship and dissent in China and the neglected but not quite diminished potential of regional flashpoints - the Middle East, South Asia, Central America and sub-Saharan Africa.

"Although the superpower confrontation, the East-West polarisation, has been diminishing, regional conflicts, of course, have been festering," said Francois Heisbourg, director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "Unfortunately there are plenty of people who see themselves as enemies, fighting each other or trying to fight each other."

Even the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, cannot yet be seen as brothers in each other's arms, a reality which may still be seen in regional projections of their respective influence. "I don't think it would be prudent or realistic to imagine that we will always have a benign climate between the United States and the Soviet Union," Heisbourg said in an interview.

What, for example, if Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev falls? Or leaves the scene? Or is displaced by an army unhappy with loss of power and impatient with the apparent breakdown of law and order that seems to be preceding the transformation into a democratic society?

Excerpts of the interview:

Q - How are the changing superpower relationships going to affect the world at large?

A - In Europe, the East-West confrontation is ceasing in political terms and is beginning to dissipate in military terms. Force levels are probably going to drop rather sharply. The NATO-Warsaw Pact order is being put into basic question. The difficulty now is to see what kind of system can replace it. In Asia, we have a somewhat different situation. The Cold War continues in the Far East and in Central Asia because of the possible linkages which can exist between the Soviet nationalities problem, which some people would call the decolonisation problem, and the neighbouring countries.

Q - How would the realignments evolve?

A - In Europe, the European Community is the dynamic institution. It is integrating not as

The Soviet Union and the United States are coming closer, with the resultant lessening of tensions in the Western Hemisphere, but important regional problems remain unresolved and the direction of change in the Soviet Union remains unclear. In an exclusive interview, Francois Heisbourg, director of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, looks at the scene.



Francois Heisbourg: Gorbachev is also the product of political and social forces

quickly as some would want, but not very slowly either. It eventually could become the political keystone of a future European order, with the Eastern European countries having associate membership status. The Warsaw Pact will probably disappear, if not in legal terms, at least in practical terms.

The NATO situation is a bit different because the Atlantic Alliance has always had a political role alongside the military one. There is also the notion that there may be a continued requirement for US strategic role with a security treaty and American forces stationed in Europe. That may actually be at much lower force levels and with a much more political than military aspect.

Q - The concept of integration that was first envisaged for 1992 has changed dramatically with the events in Europe. There is a possibility that, within NATO, there may be more pronounced divisions?

A - The 1992 process is continuing, but you're absolutely right in saying that the Eastern European events are changing the parameters, as it were, of that process. The manner in which it proceeds in the future, and more importantly, what happens after 1992, what happens in economic and monetary union, depends essentially on the manner in which Germany reunites.

If Germany reunites as a neutral state, then I suspect that the integration process in the European Community will come to a halt. Conversely, if this united

Germany retains links with the Atlantic Alliance, even where, say, with an agreement that there would be no NATO forces in Eastern Germany, for example, then I think the integration process within the European Community would not only continue but would probably receive a new boost. The European Community has always been a combination of economic nitty-gritty and a common political purpose. If you have neutralisation of Germany, then the risk is that there would be no commonality of political purpose, which really does explain why this unification issue of Germany is pivotal to the future of the community and indeed to the future of the European system.

Q - There is additionally the problem of transition from a very totalitarian system to some kind of a democracy. The big imponderable is the Soviet Union. If the current state of mini-revolutions continues in the Soviet Union, what will Western Europe do?

A - I don't think that Western Europe can do very much about events in the Soviet Union. There is broad consensus that it is in the West's interest that Gorbachev should succeed with his policies, but there is also broad consensus in the West that whether he is successful or whether he fails, depends marginally on the West. I say marginally, but in some cases, marginal can be crucial also, when you have a finely poised outcome.

Q - So is the Soviet Union also a

candidate for Western economic aid?

A - Economic aid probably at present is not the right answer because there is no viable Soviet economy to give it to. Perestroika has hardly begun in any economic sense. There is no sign of the sort of move towards a reforming economy which would be worth throwing money at. In its current state, the Soviet economy looks a lot like the Polish economy did 15 years ago. We threw \$14 billion at the Polish economy at the time, it didn't make things any better for anybody. Indeed, it probably precipitated the decline of Poland.

What the Soviet Union needs now is political support, that is, treating Gorbachev as he should be treated, as the responsible leader of a superpower. (There is need) to conclude balanced and serious arms control treaties with the Soviet Union; that is also happening. (There is need) also to consult with the Soviets on matters which are of common interest. In economic terms, there is need to provide, as required by the Soviets, to the extent that they want it, advice, assistance, counselling, training, joint ventures and some very finely targeted economic aid.

Q - But when you compare the change in Eastern Europe and the change in the Soviet Union, it seems that a lot in the Soviet Union depends on one man, that is, Gorbachev. If he goes, if something happens to him, do you feel that his whole process in the Soviet Union could be upset, demanding a much greater involvement of the West?

A - I don't think that there is very much that the West would have to do with it. You are right in that Mr Gorbachev is a very important factor, but after all, Gorbachev is also the product of political and social forces. It is not because Gorbachev would disappear that those social and political forces would have disappeared. It simply means that an extraordinarily able statesman would have been removed from the scene but would not be replaced by an equally able statesman.

Q - Does it not make the USSR more vulnerable: the pendulum might move either way?

A - Yes, because you are in a reform process, rising expectations exist on the one hand, conservative resistance exists on the other. The pillars of Soviet power, the party, the KGB and the army, are still there. What can happen, of course, is that reform gets out of hand or is effectively obstructed, in which case you have a revolution. Given the national divisions within the Soviet Union, I suspect it would be a very ugly revolution indeed. Not the sort of velvet revolution, as the Czechs call it, that we have had in most of the Eastern European countries. Gorbachev the

reformer may be replaced by other reformers, but there remains the question whether they could stick to a reform agenda, be displaced by a reaction or a revolution or a combination of the two.

Q - In the perestroika process, all three elements have been losing: the party, the military now with the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Eastern Europe, which the commanders might be unhappy about, and the KGB. Is there not a risk that if the law-and-order situation gets out of hand, the hardline elements might want to take over the Soviet Union?

A - There is a possibility, but they would have to actually put together an agenda of sorts. The KGB has been supporting Gorbachev to a large extent because the KGB probably knew better than any agency how bad things actually were. Andropov was actually the first one who began to play around with reform, although of a rather strict variety. The party is, after all, the group which brought Gorbachev into power and, although there is great resistance in the party, vis-a-vis loss of privilege, Gorbachev has been able to put his people in.

The army is the big loser. In political terms, and in bureaucratic and budgetary terms, the army is not represented on the Politburo any more, the army is suffering tremendous cutbacks and it has lost face in Afghanistan. The trauma of Afghanistan does appear to be of the same magnitude in the Soviet Union as Vietnam was for the United States. But then the army alone can probably not, and probably will not, want to oppose Gorbachev.

There is no tradition of military coups in the Soviet Union. The army is caught in a web, as it were, of the party and the KGB. It is only if the KGB and the party really decided to plump against Gorbachev, that then the army could well move, but it would move in a subordinate position.

Q - Do you think the nationalities problem could cause that kind of change? Because it is a serious problem now, as we saw in Azerbaijan, which really was a bloody affair for Gorbachev.

A - You have a composite of problems. What happened in Azerbaijan was directed less against Moscow than between the Azerbaijanis and the Armenians. So you have interethnic strife, you have those states like the Baltic states, which want to acquire independence or semi-independence as quickly as possible, because they are afraid if they don't get it now, they won't get it later on.

And then you have the problems of decolonisation in Central Asia, in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. With geographical continuity between the Russian republic and other republics, any hint of letting go of one or other of the republics could cause a general unravelling of the Soviet Union. That is something that I assume would cause a backlash against whichever government was in Moscow that would be tantamount to go down that road. But is it avoidable? I don't know.

1 MARCH 1990

Israeli TV coverage of the Intifada:

Throwing stones at the messenger

By Leon T. Hadar

CONSERVATIVE SUPPORTERS of the American involvement in Vietnam frequently have pointed an accusing finger at the television coverage of the war. It was not the American military that was defeated in Southeast Asia, they argued. The battle was lost in the living rooms of the American people because the critical television reporting from the war zones by liberal and left-wing television correspondents weakened the will of the American people to fight.

This "television-stabbed-us-in-the-back" legend, propagated by the American right, has not gone unchallenged. A recent Pentagon study attributed the decline of public support for the US engagement in Vietnam to the number of American casualties in the war, not to the media coverage.

While American television has been cleared of the charge of eroding the morale of its viewers during the Vietnam War, however, the leaders of the Israeli right, unable to get the Jewish state out of its own tragic quagmire in the West Bank and Gaza, have been producing an Israeli-made version, a return of that same set of accusations.

The Likud and its supporters have been criticising the Israeli and foreign media for their allegedly "biased" reporting of the Palestinian Uprising in the West Bank - the Intifada - and blaming the media for weakening public support at home and abroad for Israel's policies in the occupied territories.

Similarly, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America (CAMERA), a pro-Likud American organisation, brought together at its October conference in Boston a prestigious group of speakers, including Commentary editor Norman Podhoretz, who blasted the American media for its "leftist" and "pro-PLO" coverage. The speakers were especially critical of the coverage of ABC News and its anchorman Peter Jennings. (Some American-Jewish critics suggest half-jokingly that ABC stands for the "Arab Broadcasting Company").

In Israel, following the 1977 Knesset election that brought the Likud to power, its right-wing leaders made it clear the victory was still incomplete. Their main rival, the so-called "Leftist-Mafia," supposedly in control of Israel's main media, still posed a threat to their ability to impose the Likud political agenda on Israeli life.

This included their goal of annexing the West Bank and Gaza to the Jewish state. Indeed, the Likud leadership has always regarded the major print and broadcast media to be under the influence of a secular and left-of-center Ashkenazi minority whose views of Israel's future, especially concerning the Palestinian problem, clashes with that of the Likud and its nationalistic Sephardi supporters.

The Likud found it difficult to manage and control the news coverage of the major privately-owned newspapers, whose editors and reporters tend to sym-

pathise with the Labour party agenda. Instead, former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin characterised members of the Israeli press as the "PLO Gang" and the "fifth column." He referred to the English-language Jerusalem Post as the Palestine Post because of its alleged pro-Palestinian coverage.

The Likud government did not hide its plan to turn Israeli television and radio into its own political outlet. In 1980, Begin appointed Uri Porat, his press advisor and a Likud activist, director of the IBA. Under him, television reporters were restricted in their coverage of the developments in the West Bank and Gaza, and were not allowed to interview Palestinian mayors in the area who were "identified with the PLO."

Those pressures increased during the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, when correspondents published and broadcast reports critical of the military operation and its political goals, and in particular of the role of Ariel Sharon, the defence minister. Not surprisingly, Sharon referred to the press as a "poison" and complained about the high visibility of the anti-Sharon demonstrators on the television evening news.

It was the Intifada, however, that brought to a peak the adversarial relationship between the press and government, and that led to growing restrictions on Israeli television and radio coverage of the events there. This led to a situation in which, as Haaretz correspondent David Erlich noted, it is the Israeli and not the American viewer who is getting a distorted version of what is happening in the territories.

"On Israeli television there (are) none of the hard copy that the American or European television viewer receives," reports Erlich. It is a bland and "vegetarian" television coverage that deprives the Israeli citizen of a complete picture of the Intifada, he adds. Thus it is not surprising that many Israelis are startled when, during visits abroad, they watch for the first time television programmes showing the bloody confrontations between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian demonstrators.

Taming Israel's TV news

There is an old regulation that prevents Israeli television reporters from interviewing any Palestinian leader in the territories who is "identified with the PLO." That prohibits the broadcast journalists from exposing to

the Israeli public almost all the members of the Palestinian leadership, including the moderate figures who support coexistence with Israel. The restriction was challenged seven years ago by the Israeli Supreme Court, whose members adopted the language of its American counterpart on press freedom. In its decision the court said that preventing the broadcast of interviews with PLO supporters is only legal when there is a "clear and present danger" to Israel's security. Moreover, one of the interviews with PLO spokesmen could actually help Israelis comprehend the level of threat the PLO poses to Israel in order to make rational political decisions.

Porat, however, has continued to implement the illegal regulation through informal mecha-

nisms among some of the IBA reporters and producers. David Grossman, a top radio producer and author of the best-seller "Yellow Summer," a book about the Palestinian-Israeli relationship in the West Bank, resigned in protest over the restrictions over the coverage of the PNC meeting. Those who remained at IBA, writes Israeli journalist Uzi Benziman, "have turned into the puppets of the government which destroyed their professional integrity and personal dignity." What the Israeli public watches on television "is the product of government pressure and terror," he wrote.

In early 1989, Porat was replaced as head of the IBA by Shamir's press aide and political advisor, Arie Melki, who has continued the policy of suppressing West Bank coverage.

In addition to the restrictions by the government, television reporters are now blamed for "inciting" the violence in the occupied territories and for playing into the hands of the Palestinian demonstrators. An organisation called "The People Against Hostile Coverage" was set up last year to organise demonstrations and distribute car stickers criticising reporters. Journalists from both the print and broadcast media have been physically

attacked. Some Likud leaders say that these restrictions over coverage of the Intifada reflect the public's wishes. They argue that the general public is not interested in the events taking place in the territories. If anything, they say, the continuing electoral success of the Likud party shows that the right-wing policies in the West Bank and Gaza are supported by a large percentage of Israeli citizens.

Critics, however, like former IBA journalist Dan Shilon, counter that a "vicious circle" is operating here. The poor coverage, in terms of both quantity and quality, is responsible for the public's growing apathy about the Palestinian Uprising, he says, and also is responsible for the Israeli public's increasing hostility towards the West's criticism of Israel's policies in the occupied territories. This, in turn, has strengthened public support for the Likud.

"It is the responsibility of the media, especially of television, to set the agenda for the public, and to cover extensively controversial issues, even if the public is initially not interested in them," Shilon argues. "Supply of such information eventually creates demand by the public."

This is a questionable assumption, however, and mirrors the Likud arguments about the media and public attitudes concern-

ing the Intifada. After all, the major Israeli daily newspapers have reported on the uprising in the territories extensively. Print reporters have uncovered scandals about army practices and the behaviour of Jewish settlers. This coverage, however, seems to have had very little effect on public opinion.

Some print media correspondents, like Dani Rubinstein from Davar, who has covered the West Bank and Gaza since 1967, express frustration over the lack of public response to their reporting of the Intifada. It is not only the angry letters and obscene phone calls he receives from hostile readers, who blast the "SOBs" and "Arafat lovers," that bothers him. It also is the sense that there is no one out there, except for a small intellectual minority, who is reading his reports. It is as though he is talking to the wall. Rubinstein says.

Indeed, public opinion polls suggest that the Intifada has not affected public attitudes towards a solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict very much. A recent Hebrew University study indicates that the events in the occupied territories over the last three years have only strengthened existing views on the future of the West Bank and Gaza. Hence, those who support withdrawal from the occupied territories as well as those who call for annexing them continue to hold to their beliefs even more strongly.

In this fool's paradise, the Israeli press has been one of the few remaining islands of reason, attempting to provide the public with an accurate picture of what is happening in the occupied territories. Shutting the mouths of television reporters restricts an important source of information for the Israeli public. Unfortunately, the scheduled opening of a commercial cable television system in Israel, while breaking the government monopoly in the broadcast media, will probably not change anything. Most of the cable programmes will be devoted to entertainment and sports, not serious news coverage. Also, the print media's financial problems are expected to force it to down play coverage of such highly controversial issues as the Intifada.

Ze'ev Schiff, Israel's respected military analyst, predicts that as the government and the military find the Intifada more and more difficult to handle, the foreign and Israeli media will be increasingly exploited as political scapegoats. The need for a politically and financially independent press will become more urgent than ever.

Leon T. Hadar, a Washington-based journalist specialising in international affairs and Middle Eastern issues, has reported on the United States for several Israeli newspapers. He is currently teaching political science and communication at the American University.



Covering the Intifada in the West Bank.

nisms. He even has gone beyond it to impose his own "iron fist" policies on the Israeli television operations in Jerusalem, pressuring reporters to adopt the Likud-Big Brother version of the Intifada. His policies have ranged from clamping budgetary and technical constraints on the coverage of the territories to informal restrictions and even blatant censorship on the coverage of the Intifada.

One of the most dramatic examples of this was a government directive, implemented aggressively by Porat, not to devote any serious or in-depth coverage of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) meeting in Algiers, when Yasser Arafat announced the establishment of Palestinian independence and a more moderate PLO approach to negotiations with Israel. Porat specifically banned the broadcast of Arafat's speech and downplayed the story in general.

In a related issue, Porat ordered Israeli radio and television reporters who covered a recent visit of Arafat to Cairo and his meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak not to participate in a press conference held by the PLO chairman, and not to broadcast the event. The television journalists ignored the directive, which prompted leading members of the IBA board to promise reprisals against the reporters.

These and other restrictive moves have led to growing frustration among some of the IBA reporters and producers. David Grossman, a top radio producer and author of the best-seller "Yellow Summer," a book about the Palestinian-Israeli relationship in the West Bank, resigned in protest over the restrictions over the coverage of the PNC meeting. Those who remained at IBA, writes Israeli journalist Uzi Benziman, "have turned into the puppets of the government which destroyed their professional integrity and personal dignity." What the Israeli public watches on television "is the product of government pressure and terror," he wrote.

This is a questionable assumption, however, and mirrors the Likud arguments about the media and public attitudes concern-

Insight

Capital flight

HANI YAMANI, son of former Saudi oil minister, is trying to launch a huge project that would change the face of tourism in Cyprus. He plans to invest \$300 million to construct a tourist complex that would include one of the best hotels in the world with 550 rooms and 150 suites in a main building surrounded by bungalows, a marina, a golf course and a theme park.

Now, as one reads a news item like this, one cannot help but ask: Why Cyprus? Are all the beautiful shores and cities of the Arab world out of bounds for Mr. Yamani?

Shouldn't this Arab entrepreneur have tried at least to see if it was possible to change the face of tourism in an Arab country? Or is it true that the business giants of the Arab world always prefer to do business in any part of the world, except the Arab countries?

Before going on any further with this blame to one individual who preferred to contribute to the progress and prosperity of a non-Arab country, shouldn't we ask: Why would an Arab businessman not even consider investing his money in an Arab country, and take his ideas for investment and his much-needed capital to Cyprus?

In a recent issue of the Egyptian daily Al-Ahram, Arab economist Dr. Yahia Al-Jamal cites five reasons that attract investors: Stability, legal clarity, trained manpower, economic freedom, and the overall atmosphere in the prospective countries.

Mr. Yamani must have looked at these five factors before deciding to take his investment dream to Cyprus. And unless we acknowledge that the Arab world still functions as a pole of expulsion, not attraction, for capital, we will continue to lose golden economic opportunities, and continue at the same time, to misunderstand the real motives of Arab and foreign businessmen who still think it is safer to take their business elsewhere.

It is also quite clear that the political stability and the observance of civil liberties in the Arab world will not only contribute to a healthy atmosphere of co-operation between the Arab people and their leaders, but will also open up opportunities of progress and economic prosperity for our Arab countries.

Debate over Soviet Jews goes to the UN

By Masoud Halder
Special to The Star

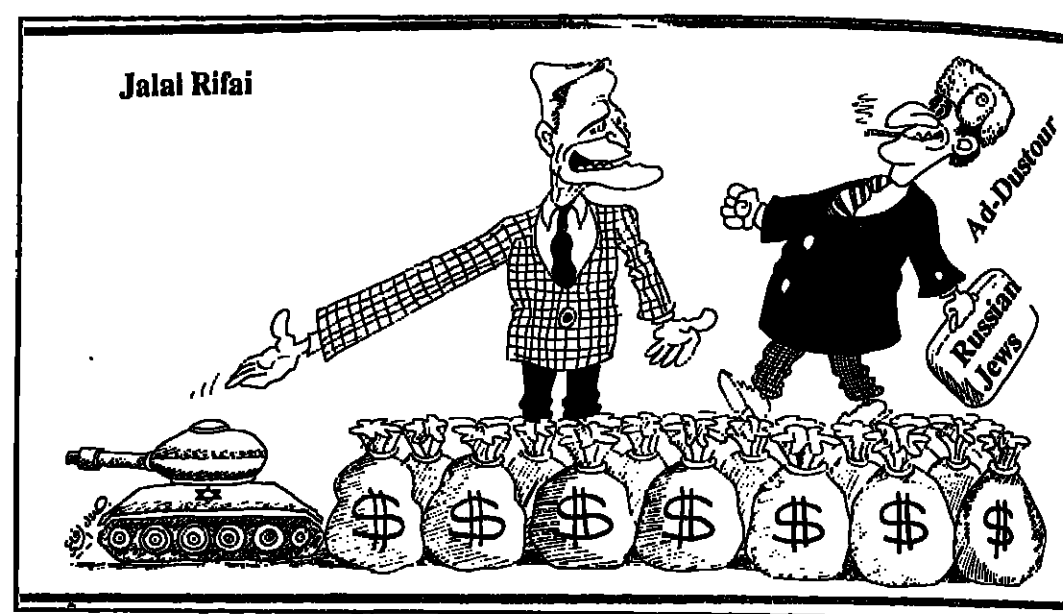
UNITED NATIONS - Alarmed by the Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union to Israel - which is expected to reach 100,000 this year - the Arab nations have mounted a major diplomatic offensive aimed in particular towards the United States to contain what they consider a threat to "international peace and security."

Leading the campaign is the Arab League's Ambassador Clovis Maksoud, who disclosed that a high-level Arab League delegation, due to meet shortly with President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker, would seek "establishment of a monitoring vehicle" on the disbursement of the American aid among the Jewish emigrants in Israel. The US aid to Israel comes to approximately \$850 a year for every Israeli man, woman or child.

Maksoud told journalists at a press briefing that the primary reason for the UN resolution which equates "Zionism with racism" was to bring to the world's attention the built-in "institutional discrimination" against the Palestinians who want to settle in their homeland in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

The Jews migrating from the Soviet Union at such a rapid pace - and given instant citizenship - would most likely be settled in the occupied territories thereby creating an imbalance which would ultimately threaten the Middle East peace process.

Much before Maksoud's assertion that the migration of Soviet Jews to Israel threatened the peace process, the debate on the issue had started in the United States. Several Jewish lobbies



and pressure groups had assailed the United States quota limitation of 50,000 Jews accepted from the Soviet Union.

They maintained that "there's little doubt that many thousands of these Jews would have moved to the United States had it not introduced strict immigration last year."

As a matter of fact, Maksoud also made a case for Soviet Jews' immigration to the United States, saying that they (Soviet Jews) are only going to Israel because they cannot get into the United States due to the new immigration policy.

"Why should Soviet Jews be forced to go to Israel against their preference, while Palestinian refugees are denied the right to return to their homeland?" he asked.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, who are scheduled to visit Moscow and Dublin for talks on the issue are due in the United States in early March.

They are expected to explore the possibilities of an appeal to the United Nations Security Council, saying that a mass exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied territories could constitute a threat to international peace and security under the United Nations charter.

The present furor over the Soviet Jews' migration was touched off by the remarks by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir early in January, when he told a group of supporters that a "Big Israel" would be necessary to absorb new immigrants from the Soviet Union. Both his supporters and critics understood that to mean that the Jews would be settled in the West Bank until the outrage over the phrase forced Shamir to announce he had been misunderstood.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry, reacting to Shamir's statement of "Big Israel," said that "it opposed pushing Palestinians off

land belonging to them" and warned that resettling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories could jeopardise the Middle East peace process. The same day the United States repeated its prohibition on the use of American aid for such settlements.

When in January Senator Bob Dole suggested across-the-board cuts in aid to major recipients, including Israel, the Israeli made a point, calling for an increase in the pie or aid due to the increase in the rate of Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union.

While Shamir dismissed the debate which he triggered off as an "artificial storm" created by Arab leaders, his apparent demeanour has resulted in awakening the Arab delegates to a new threat posed to the peace process by the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. The Arab diplomatic campaign is expected to be intensified.

Nusseibeh: Conditions in Israel favourable to peace process

Editors Note: In the aftermath of the recent developments regarding the peace process in the Middle East and the signs of an improvement in the chances of holding Palestinian-Israeli talks to be followed by elections in the Palestinian occupied territories, Al-Quds Arabic daily of occupied Jerusalem interviewed Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, a notable Palestinian personality in the West Bank, who talked about the possible Cairo meeting, the Intifada and the formation of the Palestinian delegation to the talks. Mr. Daoud Kutab conducted the interview. Following are excerpts of the interview:

Q-Mr. Bassam Abu Sharif (of the PLO) had recently said that there is a possibility of holding a Palestinian-Israeli meeting in Cairo during the coming two weeks, do you think that this is probable?

A-There is no doubt that the possibility of holding the Cairo meeting are increasing every day although we are talking about possibilities and not clear cut issues. The reasons for this are first general ones related to international concern with the peace process and here we have to realise the fact that while international media's attention of the Intifada has decreased, this does

not reflect a decrease in the global political concern. There is a continuing follow up by Western governments and by the Superpowers. The second reason has to do with developments in the Israeli political map especially the corrosion in the Likud structure and in the position of Shamir in particular. These developments are increasing the strength of Labour to move in the direction which the United States is trying to push Israel into taking. Here we have to remember that there is an agreement on the broad framework of the peace process between the US administration on the one side and the Labour on the other. So there are chances within Israel to advance the peace process.

Q-There is a controversy in the occupied territories on the names of the Palestinian delegation. How important are these names and what role do you think they will play in the future?

A-As far as I know the PLO has refused to submit a list of the names of the Palestinian delegation until now and this list will not be submitted until Israel takes a clear position accepting to attend the Cairo meeting. We know that Shamir has not yet accepted the broad lines put forward by the United States to

hold the Cairo meeting. They include those which do not exclude PLO's official participation in the peace process at a later stage. As to the controversy our people know that is Israel's making especially the issues relating to Jerusalem and the deportees, which Shamir wants to exclude these two topics from negotiations completely.

As to the Palestinian position it seems there is an initial readiness on the part of the PLO to form a Palestinian delegation to attend the Cairo meeting. The PLO will rely on a number of principles when forming the delegation, whose mission will be to attend one session only. From our side I think the two necessary conditions which must be met in this situation are, first that the PLO forms the delegation and second that this delegation be organically and closely linked to the PLO's technical and political departments during all stages of the dialogue and sessions.

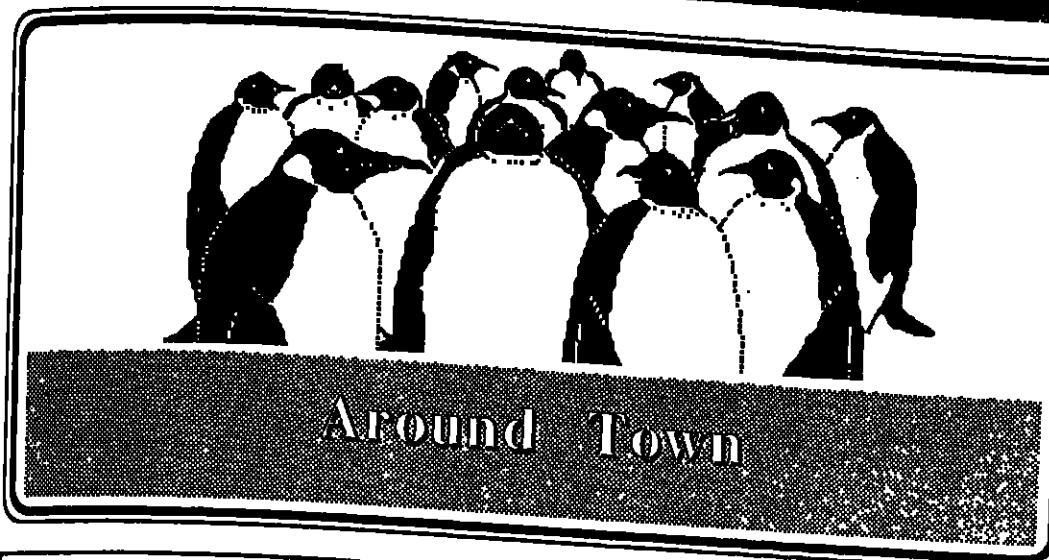
Q-There are Israeli attempts to avoid the issue of Jerusalem and its representation as outlined through double positions. What do you think?

A-Israel is beginning to realise that one cannot separate form and substance and so excluding personalities from Jerusalem

means putting hurdles and obstacles so that the issue of Jerusalem will not be on the agenda of the meeting and the future negotiations. In my opinion all its attempts will fail for a number of reasons mostly because Jerusalem is not a monopoly of Jerusalemites, but it belongs to the Palestinian people, which means that no Palestinian will accept any play which may lead to separating Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank.

Q-What are the issues which should be discussed at the Cairo meeting?

A-Israel will go to the meeting to achieve its goal. The Palestinian party should use the Cairo dialogue to achieve its own goal. The goal of the Palestinian party, in my opinion, is to pave the way to realising freedom and the independence of the Palestinian people, something which requires preparing the conditions for the PLO to join the negotiations officially leading to the international conference. At all costs we should use the media attention to raise the just Palestinian demands and to present the Palestinian suffering under occupation which should give it more international support and increase pressures on Israel to give the Palestinians their rights.



HIS MAJESTY King Hussein met Sunday with crews participating in the Malaysia International Air Race who arrived in Amman last week in their final stop before continuing to Paris where the race will end. The King welcomed the crews and members of the organising committee and wished them a pleasant stay in Jordan. Royal Jordanian's Saqr al-Urdun is still in the lead despite some problems the three-man crew had faced in their trip to Amman. The team hopes to stay in the first place by the time the participants arrive in Paris. King Hussein was received at Amman Civil Airport by Royal Jordanian Director General Eng. Hussam Abu Ghazaleh, Arab Wings Director General and President of the organising committee Sharif Ghazi Rakan, Royal Jordanian Vice President for Public Relations, members of the Royal Falcons team and crews of planes participating in the race. The teams flew from Amman Tuesday. The Jordanian team is comprised of Captain Eric Ledger, Co-pilot Rakan Nasser and photographer Mazen Fanous.



ed a reception on Monday to welcome French pilots participating in the International Paris-Singapore Air Race at their residence. Attending the reception were Mr. Michel Seureau, the cultural attaché, and Mr. Bernard Lamy, organiser of the air race.

● The General Manager of the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel Mr. Majid Khalil held a reception at the Hotel's Crown Rotisserie Saturday to honour participants in the Paris-Singapore-Paris air race. In addition to the crews of the participating planes, Royal Jordanian officials, diplomats and other guests.

● Jordanians were delighted to see a new weekly on the newsstands last week. "Aker Khabr" Arabic weekly made its debut on Monday 19 February as an eight-page newspaper with a highly satirical editorial policy. Its Publisher and Chief Editor Mr. Basem Sakijha says Aker Khabr is a continuation of a newspaper started in 1950 by his father, the veteran editor Mr. Ibrahim Sakijha, which lasted for few issues before it was closed by the authorities. The new newspaper is not licensed in Jordan, but is making the best out of the new democratic condi-

Congratulations!! Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements... Drop us a line and send a photo... we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● French Ambassador to Jordan and Mrs. Denise Bauchard host

Scrapbook

JTV's documentary tradition

JORDAN TELEVISION has done well by choosing a number of good documentary programmes lately to show on its foreign channel. I followed, and I am sure many Jordanians did as well, the Canadian documentary, "The Challenge to Democracy", which JTV presented in its last cycle. BBC Natural History series are simply fascinating and enriching to our knowledge of the world we live in. So is the "Race for Space," currently playing. JTV's latest pleasant surprise is "Women in Politics" which this week featured Benazir Bhutto.

The documentary slot in JTV's programmes is an old tradition. It should be maintained at all costs because, in my opinion, it is the only real combination of the role of television as medium for entertainment and education.

Compared to other programmes like drama, feature films and comedy, I would say documentaries take the cake. I am not against other programmes, but I think with the variety in entertainment programmes available to Jordanians, through neighbouring television stations, JTV is unique in its presentation of well-chosen and exciting documentaries.

We need to use television smartly. Studies show that an average city dweller in this part of the world spends no less than four hours daily before the television screen. That is a lot of time if we compare it with the time any of us spends reading, jogging or contemplating. In fact, we tend to take television for granted since it has become a necessity of life and not a luxury.

I am a critic of television as an exclusive entertainment tool. While most Arabs part ways with books after graduating from school or university, the only effective means of communication and education becomes the television, radio and newspapers. We know very well that television is a two-edged weapon. It can brain-wash the viewer and stereotype the world before his eyes. Children are mostly affected by television since they rely on it without our true intervention to understand the world around them. It is because of this that I see documentaries ranging from political to scientific, from health-related to investigating our natural world, as a beautiful exploitation of the television medium in a positive way. Naturally, these programmes are subjective and present the view of producers and directors, but still they relate to our lives and could probably mobilise some of us into acting responsibly towards our environment, health, society and perception of the world.

Let's hope that JTV will take a step forward by airing some of these interesting documentaries on both channels and not only on the foreign channel. Jordanians need to become aware that there are other things on their television besides boring bedouin "soap operas" and cheap, Egyptian plays where vulgarity is considered art.

Mamdouh Abu Saif

tions Jordan is enjoying. In its first issue the newspaper ran an interview with the Lower House Deputy Sheikh Abdul Muneim Abu Zant, another with Palestinian leader Mr. Naef Hawatmeh in addition to articles written by Lower House

Deputy Mr. Fakhri Kawar and others. Mr. Sakijha has given the talented cartoonist Mr. Jalal Rifai the task of illustrating the main articles and features. This, Mr. Sakijha believes, will give the paper a unique flavour.

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People and Events page.

Poisoned Perrier bursts the Yuppie bubble

● "A Perrier with a twist of lime, please?" asked one trendy customer of a bartender at a downtown New York watering hole. "No! You don't want that, it has been recalled. How about some winespritzer or diet soda?"

"Oh, this is terrible, why?" the Yuppie asked.

"Because they found benzene in some samples," replied the barman. Thus began a discussion as to how America would survive "the great Perrier drought of 1990" which a company official in the state of Connecticut said would last two to three months. About 72 million pear-shaped bottles of sparkling French water were removed from restaurants and stores across the United States. Since then, other countries where the naturally carbonated water has been tested have found traces of benzene and more than 160 million bottles have been withdrawn worldwide.



"An entire class of people just had their weekends ruined," said one politician, while cleaning out his refrigerator of the benzene-laced water.

Wendy Wasserstein, a New York playwright, interviewed on television exclaimed, "Oh, it's terrible! It's the end of an era. We'll all have to go back to Scotch!"

The news gave the public a shock because Perrier has become more than a sparkling water drink; indeed it symbolises the status minded and health conscious lifestyle of a baby boom generation, and has an image of "purity and quality."

"Whoever thought the yuppie era would end not with a bang but with a bubble!" quipped one amused food market assistant. According to newspapers in Washington, young professionals complained that the recall capped a series of indignities they have suffered over the past few years. It seems that the very trend they adopted turned into a cliché and every attempt to live pure, healthy lives was sabotaged by some new health scare.

It was in a laboratory experiment in North Carolina that the solvent benzene was first discovered in the sparkling water. Benzene is clear, flammable and poisonous - and thought to cause a risk of cancer. The company were quick to stress that no evidence of benzene had been found at source - the underground mineral spring in Vergèze, southern France, where the water is drawn and daily six million bottles are produced.

The chairman and managing director of Perrier, Frederik Zimmer, said that a human error was to blame for the contamination of the stocks of water. He admitted that benzene entered the water during the bottling process, but claimed that the breach by which the contamination occurred had been repaired.

Shares in the 127-year-old French company, Source Perrier, have slumped and the company estimate that they will lose up to 19 million pounds on loss of sales.

Senator Albert Gore, whose wife Tippi Gore is a known activist against profane language in rock songs, said he had been worried about fluoride in tap water and had just decided to start consuming Perrier, but was now nervously waiting to see what would happen to the bottled water. "Personally, I am not going to be satisfied until thousands of rats have consumed millions of bottles of Perrier and survived."

"Those who live by the image perish by the image," observed Michael Kinsley, a television commentator. "At this rate in another month we'll be back to burgers, fries and Coke."

Bruce Ames, a professor of biochemistry at the University of California in Berkeley, who is an expert on toxins took the news with a pinch of salt, saying, "We have to stop getting completely hysterical about all these hypothetical risks."

Video Rentals

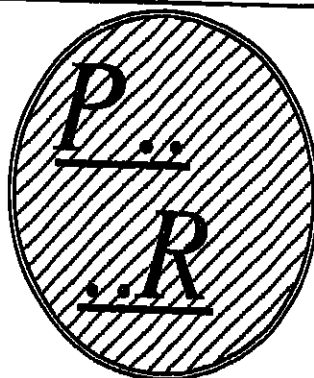
Latest video arrivals as supplied by Video House Amman. Tel: 642514

- Family Business / Sean Connery, Dustin Hoffman.
- Next of Kin / Patrick Swayze, Adam Baldwin.
- And Jack Lemmon, Ted Danson.
- Immediate Family / Glenn Close, James Woods.
- An Innocent Man / Tom Selleck.
- Tango & Cash / Sylvester Stallone, Kurt Russell.



HIS ROYAL Highness Prince Ra'ad bin Zaid, President of the Jordan Sport Federation for the Handicapped received recently from Mr. Majed Khalil, General Manager of Hotel Jordan InterContinental a cheque in the value of the proceeds of the Second Annual Queen Alia Showjumping championships which took place in January 1990 at the Arabian Horse Club. The Showjumping was patronised by Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein and organised by The Jordanian Equestrian Federation headed by Maj. Gen. Salem Turk in co-operation with Hotel Jordan InterContinental.

● The board of the Royal Foundation for Islamic Civilisation Research, Al Al-Bait Foundation, has decided to appoint Mr. Ahmad Mukhtar Mbo the former Director of UNESCO as a full-fledged member in the foundation in appreciation of Mr. Mbo's



Amra Hotel News

THE JERICHO at the Amra Forum is perfect for romantic interludes and business entertainment with the days and the seasons to offer the best fresh food available, cooked to perfection. There is a very comprehensive à la carte menu, presided over by the Chef Karl and the Maître D' Jamil, who are always willing to aid that most difficult choice and offer advice if required. The atmosphere is relaxed and intimate, just the place for a special occasion for two. The Jericho is open from 7:00 pm to 12 midnight and is closed on Fridays.

Also on the ground floor the Al Azrak Coffee Shop is another of the great "help yourself" style buffets with a selection to delight everyone and a dire temptation to the dieter.

For light snacks and coffee, the busy lobby lounge, a lovely place to sit and relax and watch the rest of Amman go by.

Meanwhile, we hear that a new outlet, the Al Rabiah, a traditional Arabic restaurant has also opened. Situated on the roof top of the hotel, it offers a wonderful view of all Amman and includes typical Oud music. A good place to try your first Arabic dishes.

The Al Rabiah is open from 8:00 pm to 01:00 am and is closed on Mondays.

cultural and scientific contributions. Mr. Mbo is currently honorary president of the History and Geography Teachers Society in his native Senegal. He was former minister of youth, education and cultural affairs in his country. Also the foundation has decided to appoint former Senegalese ambassador to Jordan Dr. Abdallah Da'youm as a member because of Dr. Da'youm's contributions to Islamic culture.

What's on at the Marriott...

- Wednesdays: Steak Special in the newly reopened Al Walima Restaurant.
- Thursdays: Mexican Night in Al Mansaf Restaurant. Every-one's favourite Mexican dishes from chile con carne to burritos and fajitas, etc.
- Saturdays: Chinese Night in Al Mansaf.
- Sundays: The best of Italy: the Marriott's special Italian buffet with fresh homemade pasta.
- Fresh Express: Every weekday at lunchtime, Al Mansaf Restaurant features a special lunch buffet for the executive on the go: lunch will be prepared a la minute, so you don't have to wait, and lunch hasn't been waiting for you! Al Mansaf: noon-3:30 pm, every weekday.

Innovative SPAR satellite system under construction in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone. Construction is underway on an innovative \$7.7 million satellite communications system to be provided by the Satellite and Communications Systems Division of Spar Aerospace Limited for the West African State of the Republic of Sierra Leone, with completion scheduled for 1991. "Project Launch," a construction inauguration ceremony lead by Sierra Leone's President, Joseph Saidu Momoh, took place at the end of January in the capital city of Freetown.

The new earth station will provide multiple digital voice, data and video circuits through an Intelsat satellite.

Recipe
Rack of Lamb
Shmelsant
As served by Mr. Winfried Werner
Helmetsag, Executive Chef of the Amman Plaza Hotel.

Four Servings
Ingredients:
4X4 Bone Rack of Lamb (160 gr. each)
200 gr. cleaned spinach leaves
120 gr. white cheese (Majadalah)
250 ml. Lamb Stock
250 gr. Filodough (available from Jibri, Alia Ali, etc.)
Butter, Olive Oil, Salt, Pepper, Flour.

Method:
Take the end bones out from each side, so there are only 2 bones left on each rack. Season the meat as usual with salt and pepper and seal with hot butter in a frying pan. Blanch the spinach leaves in boiling water for 1 minute, then cool the spinach down with cold water. Now sauté the spinach with olive oil and seasoning. Then divide the spinach in 4 portions and put one layer of spinach and 30 gr. of white cheese on top of the sealed meat. Finally wrap the filodough around the rack. Bake in oven with moderate heat for 20 minutes.

For the Sauce:
Bring the Lamb stock to the boil, then thicken the stock with a mixture of flour and butter and let the sauce simmer for 10 minutes. Add seasoning and the Sauce is ready to be served.

Agenda

Films

- The French Cultural Centre presents the feature film "Peecheur D'Island" starring Charles Vanel and Jean-Claude Pascal, Wednesday 7 March at 8:00 pm.
- The American Centre presents the feature film "All about Eve," Starring Betty Davis, Thursday 1 March at 7:00 pm.

Trips

- Friends of Archaeology will organise a trip to the twin peaks of Tlul edh-Dhabab on the Zeqa River, Friday 2 March.

Lectures

- Prof. Paolo Maria Costa will deliver a lecture on "Settlement and Exploitation of Natural Resources in Ancient Arabia." On Thursday 1 March at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:00 p.m.
- Dr. Abdul Rahman Al-Tayeb Al-Ansary will deliver a lecture in Arabic on "Al-Fan, a portrait of a pre-Islamic civilisation in Saudi Arabia." On Friday 2 March at ACOR at 6:00 p.m.
- The Goethe Institute presents a lecture by Dr. Michael Al-Nekke on "Raqa on the Rhythms: Recent Excavations on the residence of Hakeem Al-Rashid." On Tuesday 6 March at 8:00 pm.

1 MARCH 1990

Farouk of Egypt - Maligned Monarch

By Maggie James
Special to The Star

LONDON - Whatever his character - and it has been claimed that he was cruel, dissolute and weak - a certain sympathy can be held for King Farouk of Egypt. Succeeding his father King Fuad, who died in 1936, the inexperienced Farouk was thrust onto the Egyptian throne in 1937 at the age of 17, after being recalled from an unfinished military education at Woolwich Military Academy, England. He was, from the start, manipulated by ambitious advisers who supported different political factions and by his domineering mother, Queen Nazli.

Adel M. Sabit, a cousin of King Farouk and at one time his confidential liaison officer suggests in his book, a King Betrayed, published by Quartet Books, that the king was the victim of an endless series of betrayals until, in the end, he betrayed himself. Sabit was himself sacked by the king after court intrigue led to a major row, but still maintains that Farouk, while he had his weaknesses and blind spots, also ruled with considerable pragmatic skill.

"Farouk was the victim of an experiment," claims Sabit. "His father, King Fuad, sought to make his son an Egyptian as distinct from an Ottoman or Levantine monarch. The young prince therefore received a conventional Egyptian education. The Turkish language, which represented the Mohammad Ali dynasty's residual fealty to the Ottoman Sultan, was denied him." Farouk was to express throughout his life a genuine and robust Egyptian nationalism, which caused him to clash with the powerful figure of the British Ambassador, Sir Miles Lampson (Lord Killearn) - with unfortunate consequences.

In 1923 King Fuad had inherited a new constitution drafted under British supervision. It was not a constitutional system whereby the royal rights might be strictly limited and defined as in Britain, neither was it an absolutist document in which the king could overrule the executive authority.

It was a constitution that could not but invite a continuous bickering between the king and people, represented by the parties; a bickering which led eventually to intervention of the British referee, who would apply the deci-



sive touch, usually in line with the British interest, says Sabit. Although this 'divide and rule' system was practised effectively during King Fuad's reign, Sabit asserts that the system was applied with disastrous results in King Farouk's time.

From its commencement, Farouk's role was beset by political division. The strong Egyptian nationalist party, the Wafdists, called for democracy and a democratic party government (supported by the British).

Opposing them were the fol-

lowers of Islam.

"For one thing he was the descendant and recognised heir to one of Islam's most effective modern reformers, Mohammed Ali Pasha, the founder of the dynasty whose bid to modernise Egypt had been imitated by the Ottomans and whose example had profoundly affected thinking through the Islamic world. For another, he was, on his mother's side, the grandson of Mohammed Cherif Pasha, who could prove descent through his father, the Sheikh El Islam of Istanbul, to Prophet Mohammed himself by the line of the latter's grandson, El Hussein," says Sabit.

King Farouk had an ambivalent attitude to the British and alienated British support by refusing to be dragged into World War II. Emphasising that Farouk, supported by his people, rightly mistrusted British intention, Sabit says: "Britain had all too often repeated her intention of withdrawing from Egypt without doing anything about it. It was unlikely that a victorious Britain would be inclined to evacuate the country. One could therefore conclude that an Italian or German presence might be no better than the British, and

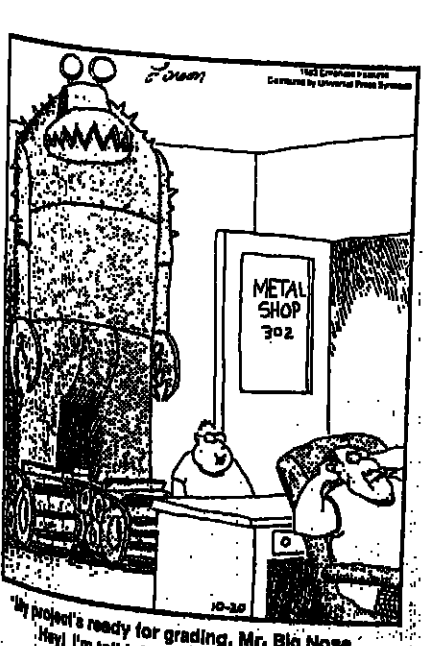
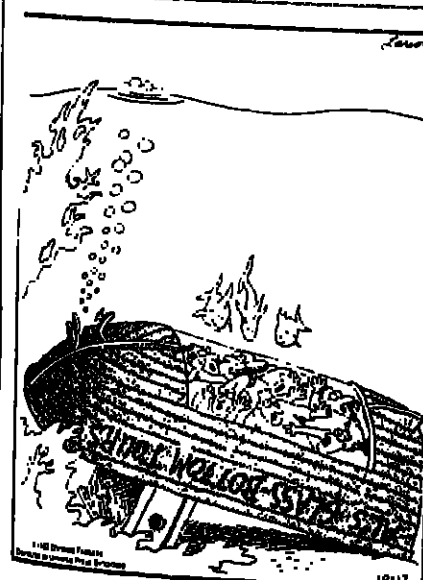
would certainly be no worse." In 1948, Egypt, as a member of the Arab League, became embroiled in the first Arab-Israeli war. Egypt, says Sabit, paid the highest price in men, money and other costs of war. He asserts that the war against Israel was lost through a combination of the ineptitude of Egyptian generalship, and the unreliability of Arab allies. Farouk, as principal architect of the war, had to bear the brunt of recrimination.

The popularity that the king had enjoyed when he ascended the throne was dissipated by all these events - and by his political ineptitude. Speculating on the plot to depose Farouk, Sabit says that the American CIA and the British were involved in the intrigue, but is of the opinion that the army takeover was essentially an Egyptian affair.

He concludes that the determining reason for the abdication was the absence of any dialogue between the king and the young and eager officers who were the rising lights of his army. The cause for this, he says, may be attributed directly to the palace system. Farouk's tragedy was that he was a lonely king and remained so to the end.

The Far Side

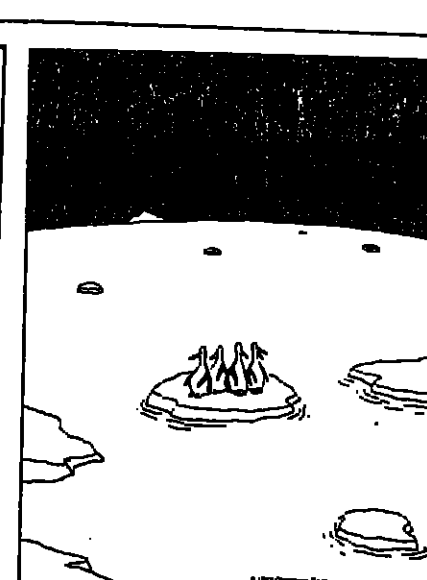
By GARY LARSON



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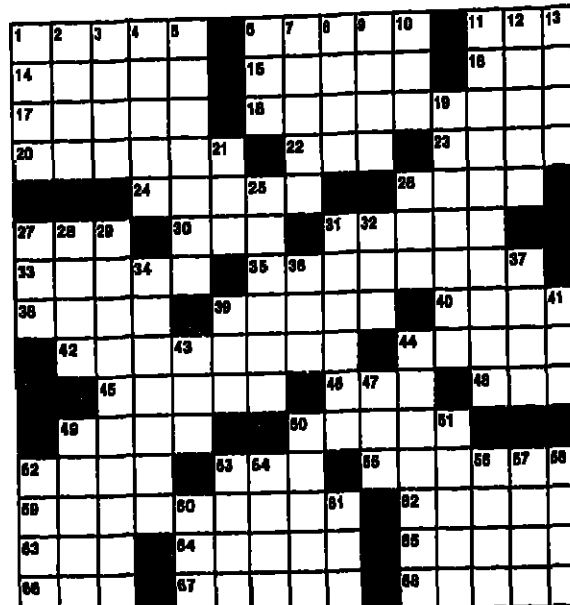


1 MARCH 1990

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1 Fume
- 6 Leading
- 11 School of whales
- 14 Small music group
- 15 Use a soapbox
- 18 Baseball star
- 17 The Ram
- 18 Favorite spot for 25D
- 20 Human
- 22 Strain
- 23 Singer Gibb
- 24 Prolonged period
- 26 Spacious
- 27 Sch. subj.
- 30 Pigeon sound
- 31 Toots
- 33 Pile bread sandwiches
- 35 Leno a.k.
- 38 Arab gulf
- 39 Craze
- 40 Sand forth
- 42 Charmed
- 44 Slow down
- 45 Legal right
- 46 Sun
- 48 Horse or cow
- 49 Domino p/p
- 50 Scatter
- 52 Grain coarsely ground
- 53 Baglike part
- 55 Political refugee
- 56 Grandma's specialties
- 62 Murrow's "See —"
- 63 Pourboire
- 64 TV's White
- 65 Use a razor
- 66 Cow fodder
- 67 Paid
- 68 Woodman

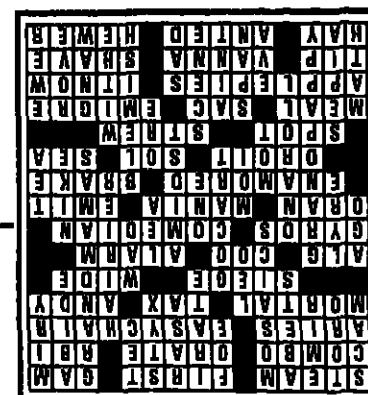


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DOWN

- 1 Swindle
- 2 Sp. bull
- 3 Arab prince
- 4 Aids in crime
- 5 Title picture
- 6 Adversary
- 7 Enraged
- 8 Tabula —
- 9 River of Hades
- 10 Sleuth
- 11 Some senior citizens
- 12 Await
- 13 Smear with mud
- 19 More risky
- 21 Zodiac sign
- 26 Child's racer
- 28 Roll of money
- 27 In the past
- 28 Harp's cousin
- 29 Senior citizen
- 31 Surrounded by
- 32 Grassland
- 34 Having good luck
- 35 Undivided
- 37 Goddess of victory
- 38 Fr. pronoun
- 41 Oolong
- 43 Pilby saying
- 44 Imperfection
- 47 Crude metal
- 49 Dark brown
- 50 Play segment
- 51 Willow twig
- 52 Sch. subj.
- 53 Arch
- 54 "— we got fun?"
- 56 Nibble
- 57 Wander
- 58 aimlessly
- 58 Pitcher
- 60 A Gabor
- 61 Unhappy

Solution



MAGICWORD

HOW TO PLAY: Read the list of words. Look at the puzzle. You'll find these words in all directions — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backwards. Draw a circle around each letter of a word found in the puzzle, then strike it off the list. Circling it will show a letter has been used but will leave it visible should it also form part of another word. Find the big words first. When letters of all listed words are circled, you'll have the given number of letters left over. They'll spell out your MAGICWORD.

BATMAN (Sol.: 8 letters)

A—Adventurous, Ally, Angry; B—Batmobile, Bold, Brave, Bruce Wayne; C—Cloak, Comic book; D—Daring, Dark; E—Escape; F—Fair, Fast, Fight; H—Heroic; J—Joker, Just; L—Leap, Lung; M—Mask, Mighty, Moral, Movie; O—Oppose; P—Penguin, Private, Protect; Q—Quick; R—Riddler, Robin; S—Save, Secret, Signal, Strong; T—Television, True; U—Urgent, Utility belt; V—Valiant; W—Wealthy, Weapon, Wild

SECRETCEORPBEH
LANGISTRUEVARBE
ELIBOMTABRSTUAR
TUBFOPPOSELLCDO
ANOTSAFMASKEEVI
VGRJEKAOLCFBWEC
IEDLOBNTLAAYANK
RQUICKNIYPTITYO
PYHTLAEWLERINUO
EVASIWYRIDDLERB
NEDLETLRTHGIFOC
GIAAHAURGENTJUI
UVPGRSTRONGUUSM
IOIOBKGNIRADS AO
NMMNOISIVELETS C

Sports Hall of Shame

by Nash & Zullo

LINESWOMAN DOROTHY CAVIS-BROWN FELL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF A 1964 WIMBLEDON MATCH. WHILE THE PLAYERS VOLLEYED, DOROTHY DOZED. FINALLY A PLAYER WENT OVER AND NUDGED HER TO SEE IF SHE HAD DIED. WITH ALL EYES ON HER, DOROTHY FELT LIKE DYING — OF EMBARRASSMENT!



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JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): A piece of a puzzle is still missing. Check your date book and you may find a clue. Someone close to you continues to cause difficulties. Your sense of humor helps save the day. Happiness comes in small packages for those in new jobs. A surprise telephone call puts you in a cheerful mood. Your anxiety over bills can be relieved if you stick to your budget.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Take advantage of a golden opportunity to form a new partnership or expand your present operation. Valuable seed money is available. Someone massages your ego. Take any flattery with a grain of salt. Your writing skills will come in handy when preparing an annual report. Effort counts for more than personality. Strengthen your position with your loved ones. Use your creative talents judiciously.

GEMINI (21 May 20 June): You can accomplish almost anything you set out to do this week. A partnership or other close relationship becomes more upbeat. Issues you have not had the courage to address can be discussed with ease. Try to be more thick-skinned in your search for career advancement. Family members look to you for leadership. Romance has its ups and downs. Go slow. Impulsive behavior could cause embarrassment.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): A fresh beginning can be positive and lucky. Go after the new contracts or clients you need. Long hours begin to pay off. A new relationship awakens strong romantic feelings. Slow down! A close friend announces a major change in lifestyle. Do not voice any doubts. Opposition will only make this person more determined! A temporary disappointment could work to your advantage.

LEO (23 July - 22 Aug.): Seek the advice of a financial counselor if trying to unravel complicated monetary transactions. A loved one has a lot to discuss with you. Find a tactful way to lend your support. Unusual circumstances could cause temporary delays. An out-of-town visitor brings you a new viewpoint. Look at your financial transactions from every angle. Consult experts.

VIRGO (23 Aug. 22 Sept.): Welcome a resurgence of energy. A feeling of well-being prevails. Focus your attention on a cherished goal — no obstacle can stop you now! Ulterior motives may be behind an offer of help. Be discreet about any past errors in judgment. If thinking of remodeling or redecorating your home, get several estimates in writing. Enlist the help of your mate in keeping entertainment expenses down.

LIBRA (23 Sept. - 22 Oct.): Show your willingness to expand your horizons. A financial offer could be better than it sounds. Postpone making a final decision until more figures are available. Resist unreasonable demands. Tend to pressing business affairs. Your associates are apt to be demanding. Someone could accidentally short-change you. Correct mistakes as soon as they are spotted. Romance looks rosy.

SCORPIO (23 Oct. - 21 Nov.): A romantic triumph has you talking on air. Those in authority will quickly bring you down to earth if you do not complete work assignments on time. Fulfill your obligations. Others may grumble, but you look forward to changes on the job. Check the fine print when going over important papers. A friend who has been reliable in the past may make a mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (22 Nov. - 21 Dec.): Put a job hunt on hold. A loan will help you deal with a temporary financial bind. Make a business compromise; seek experts' help. Do not get overly anxious — things will fall into place. Continue to forge ahead while the going is good. This week's events can lead to larger financial rewards. Some travel may have to be postponed. A sibling needs more attention and affection.

CAPRICORN (22 Dec. - 19 Jan.): An assertive approach will help you open doors faster. Be strict with yourself. Staying on schedule will allow you to achieve the results you seek. A romantic situation remains uncertain. Strike a better balance between work and play. Loved ones may feel you are "all business." Keep abreast of developments in your field. Be patient with someone beset by personal problems.

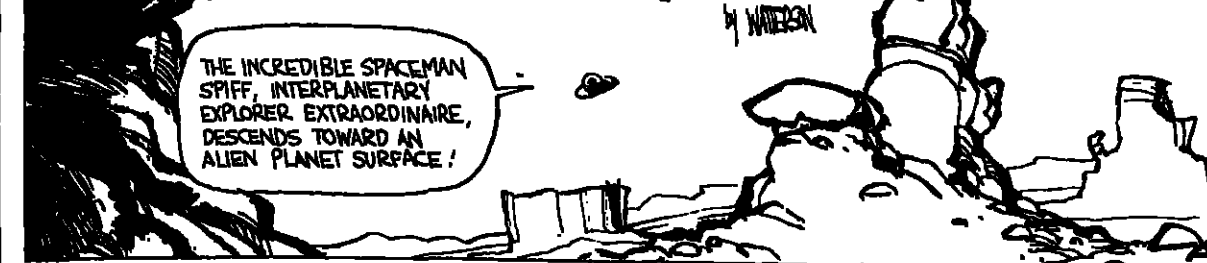
AQUARIUS (20 Jan. - 18 Feb.): Take stock of your assets and consult financial experts when planning for the future. Avoid making tricky arrangements. Devote more time to self-analysis. Seek peaceful surroundings. Trust your hunches; they are apt to prove profitable. Greater career or business success depends on your learning to be less modest. If you entertain this week, everything should go smoothly.

PISCES (19 Feb. - 20 March): Curb a tendency to find fault. Keep your eyes open for fresh opportunities and ideas. A personal crisis could be highlighted this afternoon. A new relationship makes you think a romantic commitment. Your talents as a poet or artist may be recognized by someone with considerable prestige. Loved ones rally around. Lend a helping hand to someone swamped with work. Partner pays you a compliment.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN need gentle and consistent discipline more than children born under other signs. Harsh words or physical actions will be counterproductive. Foster a strong sense of respect in these children by allowing them to learn by doing. Recognize their achievements publicly and reward their good intentions. They are so versatile, they can find success in almost any profession. Art, music, writing or sculpting will hold appeal.

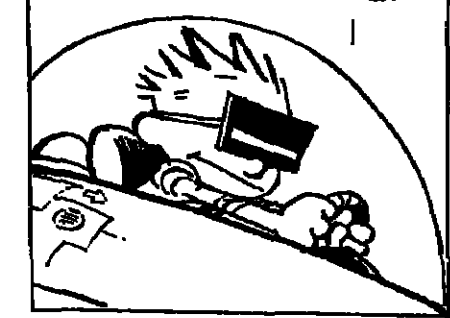
Comics

Calvin and Hobbes

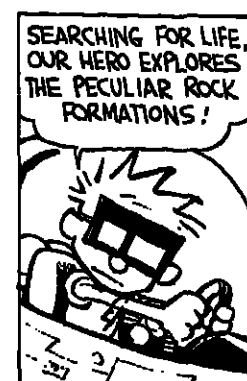


THE INCREDIBLE SPACEMAN SPIFF, INTERPLANETARY EXPLORER EXTRAORDINAIRE, DESCENDS TOWARD AN ALIEN PLANET SURFACE!

ANOTHER DAY, ANOTHER MIND-BOGGLING ADVENTURE!



THE FEARLESS SPACEMAN SPIFF CRUISES LOW OVER PLANET QUORG, A DESOLATE WORLD OF DEEP GORGES AND CANYONS!



SEARCHING FOR LIFE, OUR HERO EXPLORES THE PECULIAR ROCK FORMATIONS!



...THE VERY PECULIAR ROCK FORMATIONS! ...A LITTLE TOO PECULIAR, PERHAPS!



SUDDENLY OUR HERO REALIZES THAT THIS LANDSCAPE WAS NOT CREATED BY GEOLOGICAL FORCES! SPIFF HITS THE THRUSTERS!

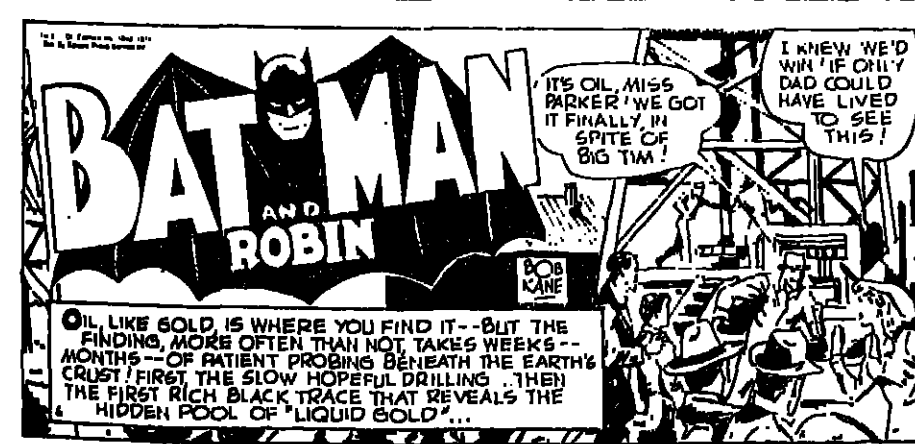


WHILE SPIFF WAS SEARCHING FOR ALIEN LIFE, IT SEEMS ALIEN LIFE WAS SEARCHING FOR SPIFF! NO DOUBT IT WANTED THE EARTHLING FOR DINNER!



CALVIN, WHERE ARE YOU?? IT'S TIME FOR DINNER!

UGH! SPIFF BLASTS INTO HYPERSPACE!

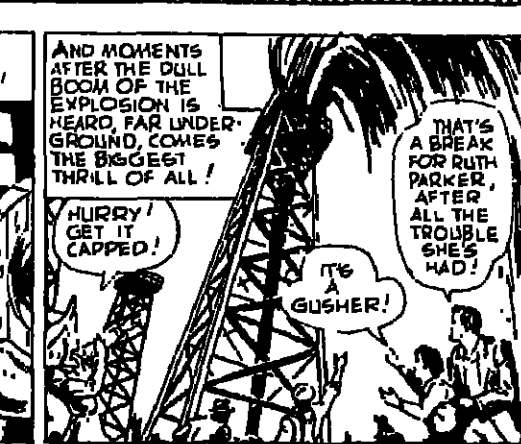


BATMAN AND ROBIN

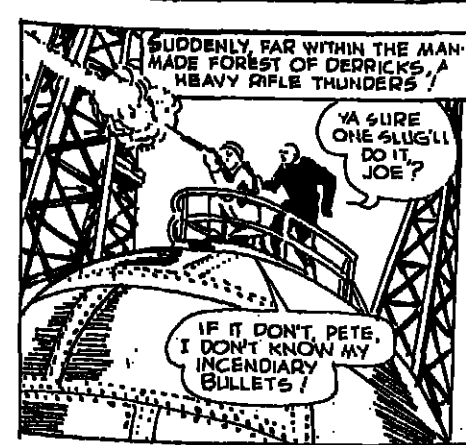
IT'S OIL, MISS PARKER! WE GOT IT FINALLY IN SPIRIT OF BIG TIM!



I KNEW WE'D WIN! I ONLY DAD COULD HAVE LIVED TO SEE THIS!



A THRILLING MOMENT THIS AS BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON, VICTORS FROM DISTANT GOTHAM CITY, CAN ATTEST!



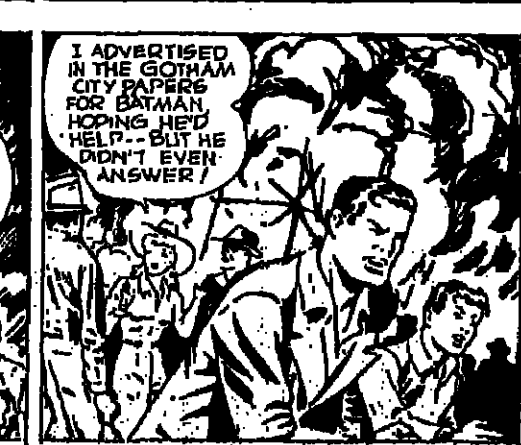
SUDDENLY, FAR WITHIN THE MANTLE OF FOREST OF DEBRICKS, A HEAVY RIFLE THUNDERS!



A FLAMING PROJECTILE TEARS THROUGH THE INFLAMMABLE CRUDE OIL AND —



FIRST, OUR TOOLS AND MACHINERY WERE DAMAGED — THEN MOST OF OUR WORKMEN WERE FRIGHTENED AWAY — AND NOW, THIS!



I ADVERTISED IN THE GOTHAM CITY PRESS FOR BATMAN, HOPING HE'D HELP. — BUT HE DIDN'T EVEN ANSWER!



BACK IN THE SHADOWS, A SWIFT TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE...



IF IT DON'T PETE, I DON'T KNOW MY BULLETS!



HE AIN'T IN THESE PARTS NO MORE, PETE! HE'S OUTA THIS WORLD!



IT'LL BE FOR GOOD IF YOU SET FIRE TO SOME OF THOSE OIL WASTE AND TOSSE IT AWAY! I START BURNING!